CITY HILIGHTS

The Truth Speaks

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Mamdani urges King Charles to return Koh-i-Noor **P9**

New basmati training centre for UP farmers **P11**

P12 Vicky's hilarious "Paid Partnership" request for Katrina

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FATAL WALL COLLAPSE

CM FIRES KHSDP EE

Kin of victims get solatium

The action follows the EE's alleged failure to avert the collapse of the wall, which was reportedly compromised due to soil dumping

BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday ordered the immediate suspension of an executive engineer for the Bowring and Lady Curzon Hospital wall collapse that claimed seven lives, during a high-level review meeting at Vidhana Soudha.

A compensation of Rs 5 lakh, as announced by the CM, was distributed to the families of victims who lost their lives in the tragedy which occurred due to heavy downpour with gusty winds and hailstorm on Wednesday evening.

The meeting of municipal commissioners of the five corporations, chaired by Siddaramaiah and attended by Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, focused on fixing accountability and examining lapses that led to the tragedy.

"Why was soil dumped in a way that damaged the wall? Why did you not monitor this?" Siddaramaiah asked, pulling up hospital authorities during the meeting.

A statement from the Chief Minister's office said that the CM ordered the immediate suspension of the executive engineer of the Karnataka Health Systems Development Project (KHSDP).

CM DIRECTS...

- Issue a notice to the head of Bowring Hospital.
- Trim dry and dangerous tree branches.
- Desilt stormwater drains to prevent flooding.
- Place barricades at underpasses where water stagnates and restrict public movement.

Lokayukta to book top officials

BENGALURU: The Lokayukta has decided to register a Suo Motu case against senior government officials, including Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh, GBA chief Maheshwar Rao, DCP East, traffic police officers and local police jurisdictional staff. Lokayukta Justice BS Patil said commissioners of five city corporations, Additional Chief Secretary of the Medical Education Department, and other top officials linked to city administration will be named as accused.

Centre begins probe to prevent dual LPG, PNG connections

NEW DELHI

The Centre has initiated a nationwide assessment to identify households with both liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) and piped natural gas (PNG) connections as it enforces an order prohibiting dual ownership, aiming to curb misuse and better target subsidies.

"Assessment is being done as to how many have dual connections," said Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas Joint Secretary Sujata Sharma during an inter-ministerial briefing on West Asia.

Last month, the Ministry barred households with PNG connections from retaining or obtaining subsidised domestic LPG cylinders. Through a notification issued on March 14, the government amended the Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 2000, under the Essential Commodities Act.

'Change Your Law' SC to Centre over teen pregnancy termination

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has urged the Centre to consider amending existing abortion laws to allow rape survivors to terminate pregnancies beyond the current 20-week legal limit, stressing the immense trauma faced by victims.

Hearing a case involving a minor rape survivor, the apex court highlighted the physical and emotional suffering endured by victims, observing that forcing them to continue an unwanted pregnancy adds to their "pain and humiliation."

The court questioned the rigidity of the current legal framework under the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act, which generally permits abortion up to 20 weeks, with limited extensions under specific conditions.Emphasising a more humane and rights-based approach, the bench asked the government to re-examine the law in light of evolving societal realities and the need to protect survivors' dignity and autonomy.

What the top court said

- When there is a pregnancy due to rape, there should not be time limit.
- Law needs to be organic and in sync with evolving time.
- No court can force a minor to continue an unwanted pregnancy against her will.
- Nothing can compensate the agony she (the child) suffered after the rape.
- If it has become a fight between a child and foetus, then the child should be allowed to live with dignity.

Americans belong at bottom of Gulf waters: MOJTABA

TEHRAN

Iran Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei issued a dire warning to the US on Thursday, which was also the National Persian Gulf Day, saying a "new chapter" for the Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz is taking shape amid the ongoing war and that Tehran would secure the Gulf region and eliminate "the enemy's abuses of the waterway."

In his message that was broadcast on Iranian state TV, he said the Gulf region will have a "bright future" without the presence of the US. The only place Americans belong in the Persian Gulf is "at the bottom of its waters."

"Ninety million proud and honourable Iranians inside and outside the country regard all of Iran's identity-based, spiritual, human, scientific, industrial, and technological capacities—from nanotechnology and biotechnology to nuclear and missile capabilities—as national assets and will protect them just as they protect the country's waters, land, and airspace," Khamenei wrote in his message, reiterating the hard stance on not giving up the nuclear programme and missile development.

'Current captain to continue...'

BENGALURU

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge said on Thursday that there will be no chief minister change in Karnataka "for now" and that the leadership tussle will be resolved at the earliest.

His comments come at a time when there have been speculations of a possible leadership change and cabinet reshuffle after the results for the assembly elections in four states and one Union Territory, along with bypolls to two assembly segments in Karnataka, are announced on May 4.

Supporters of DyCM DK Shivakumar have been insisting on his elevation in line with a rumoured power-sharing agreement with Siddaramaiah when the party won the 2023 assembly polls.

Sri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister

Greater Bengaluru Authority

Bengaluru City Corporations

North • South • East • West • Central

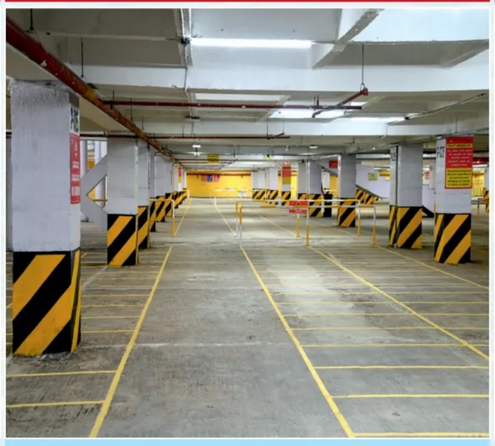
Sri D. K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
& Bengaluru City Development Minister

The Foundation Stone Laying and Inauguration of Development works by the GBA and BMRCL

by Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister & Bengaluru City Development Minister

Sri D.K. Shivakumar

Date: 01.05.2026, Friday

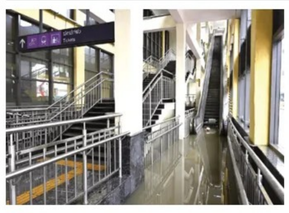
Ragigudda - Central Silk Board Rail-cum-double-decker road flyover	Skywalk Construction work at Banashankari Junction	Inauguration of Commercial Complex and Multi-storey Car Parking in Gandhi Bazaar	Inauguration of the Vehicle Parking Complex on the ground floor of K.R. Market building	Inauguration of Dynamic lighting system on Metro Pillars
				
at 3.30 p.m. H.S.R. LAYOUT - Ramp Entrance • Total Cost **Rs. 499 crores** • 5.12 kms Length • Signal Free Corridor	at. 4.15 p.m. BMTC Bus Stand, Banashankari • A Captivating Model of the Banashankari Skywalk • Facilitate pedestrian and vehicle traffic	at 5.00 p.m. Gandhi Bazaar Road • Cost : **Rs. 22 Crores** • 6-storey Commercial Complex • Multi-storey Parking Facility • 51 shops and 24x7 parking facility for 128 LMV four wheelers	at 5.45 p.m. K.R. Market • **10,000 sq m** Area • 24x7 parking facility for 200 cars and 400 two-wheelers • Separate parking arrangements for women, senior citizens and the specially abled • Real-time parking information through digital displays, web portals and mobile apps	at 6.45 p.m. M.G. Road Metro Station • Total Cost : **Rs. 3.08 Crores** • Beautification of M.G. Road metro pillars • In the first phase, between Trinity and Anil Kumble Circle on M.G. Road • 160 metro pillars in next phases

OUR KARNATAKA
GUARANTEE KARNATAKA

ಶಕ್ತಿ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರಿಗೆ ಬಸ್ ಪ್ರಯಾಣ ಉಚಿತ | ಅನ್ನಭಾಗ್ಯ 10kg | ಗೃಹ ಜ್ಯೋತಿ ಪ್ರತಿ ಮನೆಗೆ 200 | ಗೃಹಲಕ್ಷ್ಮಿ ₹2000 | ಯುವನಿಧಿ ₹3000 ₹1500

As is enshrined in our constitution "to value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture" - is the fundamental duty of every citizen of the country.

QUICK READ



Bengaluru rains flood Metro stations

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Heavy rain battered Bengaluru on Wednesday, flooding Metro stations and disrupting public transport across several parts of the city. Waterlogging near Jayadeva Hospital Metro station on the Yellow Line left stretches toward Silk Board partially non-motorable, forcing vehicles into a single lane and causing major traffic snarls. Premises around Silk Board Metro station were also inundated, adding to congestion already worsened by the closure of the double-decker flyover. At KSR Bengaluru City Junction railway station, passengers struggled to find cabs and autorickshaws amid the rain chaos. A fallen tree near the station's third entrance also damaged parked vehicles. Flooding was reported near under-construction Pink Line stations along Bannerghatta Road.

K'taka moves SC against bike-taxi order citing safety concerns

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
The Karnataka government has approached the Supreme Court challenging the High Court order that lifted the ban on bike-taxi operations in the state. The appeal contests the High Court ruling favouring cab aggregators offering bike-taxi services. The matter is yet to be listed before the apex court. Earlier, the High Court held that a blanket ban on bike taxis was legally unsustainable and directed the transport department to permit such services by classifying two-wheelers as transport vehicles and issuing contract carriage permits. State government sources said the appeal argues that two-wheelers cannot be treated as transport vehicles under the Motor Vehicles Act. The government has also cited safety concerns involving women, children and pillion riders.

Heavy rain destroys three-acre banana plantation

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Heavy rain accompanied by hailstorms destroyed a three-acre banana plantation in Hakkinalu village of Nelamangala taluk on Wednesday, leaving a farmer's family devastated. Farmer Krishnappa's plantation of nearly 3,000 banana trees was completely uprooted just before harvest. According to family members, the crop had been cultivated after pawning gold ornaments, including his wife's wedding ring, to raise funds. The farmer reportedly spent around Rs 8 to 10 lakh on cultivation and was expecting returns of nearly Rs 40 to 45 lakh this season. Following the massive loss, Krishnappa's family has appealed to the government for immediate compensation and relief assistance.

B'luru rain aftermath: GBA orders emergency safety measures after Bowring Hospital wall collapse

GBA chief reviews tragedy aftermath, intensifies citywide safety and emergency cleanup operations immediately

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A day after the tragic compound wall collapse near Bowring Hospital that claimed seven lives, the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has launched a citywide emergency response, ordering intensified safety measures, debris clearance and preventive inspections across Bengaluru following heavy rainfall and hailstorms.

GBA Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao chaired a high-level review meeting on Thursday to assess the situation and coordinate immediate action among civic agencies after the deadly incident shocked the city.

The wall collapse near Bowring and Lady Curzon Hospital killed seven people, including four men, two women and a girl child. The victims were reportedly roadside vendors seated beside the compound wall when the structure suddenly collapsed during heavy rain on Wednesday evening.

Officials said three people sustained serious injuries and are currently undergoing treatment at Victoria Hospital, while three others with minor injuries are being treated at Bowring Hospital.

The state authorities have announced compensation of Rs 5 lakh each for the families of the deceased. Officials also assured that all necessary medical treatment is being provided to the injured.

During the emergency review meeting, Maheshwar Rao instructed all municipal bodies functioning under the GBA jurisdiction to remain on high alert and immediately identify vulnerable structures, compound walls and rain-affected areas to prevent similar tragedies.

Strict directions were issued to clear all fallen trees, branches and debris across Bengaluru by Thursday morning with assistance from fire and emergency services personnel. Civic officials were also asked to identify designated dumping and storage locations for fallen trees and branches to streamline cleanup operations.

The meeting was attended by senior civic and administrative officials, including Special Commissioner Sushma Godbole, Municipal Commissioners Pommala Sunil Kumar, Dr KV Rajendra, DS Ramesh, KN Ramesh and Dr Harish Kumar. BWSSB Chairman Ram Prasath Manohar, Additional Commissioners Daljit Kumar and Naveen Kumar, chief engineers and fire department officials also participated.

Heavy rain continued to impact several parts of Bengaluru on Wednesday. The city recorded an average rainfall of 60 mm, accompanied by hailstorms around 5 pm. Rainfall levels reportedly reached 77.6 mm in parts of the Central zone, including Cottonpet, Binnipet, Kempapura, Subhash Nagar, Jagajeevanram Nagar and the KR Market region.

Authorities have urged residents to remain cautious as rain-related emergency operations continue across the city.

K'taka tightens homestay rules after Kodagu tourist assault case

Revised norms mandate foreign guest reporting, police verification, CCTV surveillance and stricter compliance.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka government has intensified monitoring of foreign tourists staying in homestays and launched a crackdown on illegal accommodations following the alleged rape of a US tourist in Kodagu district, where two persons, including a homestay owner and cook, were arrested.

Acting on directions issued by the Director General and Inspector General of Police and the Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order), authorities carried out a special inspection drive across districts with a high concentration of homestays, including Kodagu, Chikkamagaluru, Udupi and Dakshina Kannada.

Officials said the operation has so far identified more than 100 illegal homestays, with inspections still continuing in several regions.

A detailed report recommending action against violators will soon be submitted to the police and tourism departments.

Under the revised safety guidelines, homestay operators must upload details of all foreign guests onto the police department's digital monitoring system and continue mandatory submission of Form C to the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO). Operators are also required to prominently display registration certificates and licences at reception areas and report any suspicious or illegal activity immediately.

Authorities have made police verification compulsory for all homestay staff.

Guests must also be provided emergency contact information for local police, health services and district administration officials.

Officials acknowledged that monitoring tourists in remote estate properties has remained challenging, especially as many unregistered homestays operate informally and depend heavily on tourism platforms for income.

HM Srinivas, Joint Commissioner of Tourism, said registered homestays are governed under the Karnataka Tourism Trade (Facilitation and Regulation) Act, 2015, which mandates licensing and compliance checks.Additional measures introduced by the government include compulsory training programmes for owners and staff through district tourism development committees. The Women and Child Development Department will conduct awareness sessions on gender sensitisation, the POSH Act and the POCSO Act.

Homestays must now install QR codes at reception areas enabling guests to download the Karnataka State Police SOS app.

In locations with weak mobile connectivity, operators must provide alternative communication facilities such as landline phones.

CCTV cameras have also been made mandatory at reception areas, with footage required to be stored for at least 30 days.

Owner presence mandatory

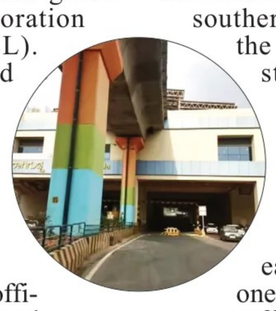
To strengthen supervision and accountability, the government has made it compulsory for homestay owners to reside on the premises, particularly in remote tourist destinations frequently visited by foreign travellers.

New stretch of Silk Board flyover closed after trial run

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Within a week of opening the new carriageway of the double-decker flyover between Silk Board and Ragigudda Metro station, city traffic police closed the stretch for motorists, citing its status as a trial run and pending safety corrections.

Officials said the 3.5-km elevated corridor was opened temporarily to assess traffic movement, and a final decision on regular operations now rests with the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL). Authorities added that several road safety issues were identified during the trial phase, prompting immediate corrective instructions.



A senior police officer said BMRCL has been asked to address concerns related to inadequate signage and road-user guidance before the stretch is opened permanently. Among the key suggestions is the installation of a directional signboard indicating the down ramp towards BTM Layout at least 100 metres in advance for motorists approaching from the HSR Layout side.

Officials have also recommended the installation of rumble strips as a speed-calming measure, improved speed limit signage, and strict enforcement of lane discipline along the flyover to ensure safer traffic flow on the elevated corridor.

Sources indicated that the flyover is likely to be opened for regular traffic from May 1, following a review and inspection. Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar is expected to visit the site and take a ride on the new stretch before it is fully thrown open to the public.

The corridor had initially brought relief to thousands of commuters travelling between southern Bengaluru and the Outer Ring Road stretch connecting KR Pura and Silk Board. The project, executed by BMRCL at a cost of ₹530 crore, is part of efforts to ease congestion on one of the city's busiest traffic corridors.

The stretch from Ragigudda to Silk Board was first opened in July 2024, while the reverse direction was recently opened on a trial basis before the sudden closure.

However, the quick shutdown left several motorists confused. Badrinath, a commuter, said users were not informed clearly about the closure and urged authorities to fix issues quickly and open the road for regular use without waiting for formal inaugurations or VIP inspections.

Cabinet clears infrastructure, welfare & recruitment proposals

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka Cabinet on Thursday approved and discussed a range of major infrastructure, welfare and administrative initiatives, including high-speed rail connectivity, township development and large-scale recruitment across government departments.

One of the major proposals discussed was the Hyderabad-Bengaluru High-Speed Rail corridor, a 607-km project with 101.03 km passing through Karnataka. Proposed stations include Adipura, Devanahalli and Kodihalli, with Devanahalli expected to provide seamless connectivity to Kempegowda International Airport.

The Cabinet also granted in-principle approval for ₹28.47 crore in Viability Gap Funding to support regional flight services between Bidar-Bengaluru and Kalaburagi-Bengaluru. The funding will be shared by the Kalyan Karnataka Region Development Board and the state infrastructure department.

In urban development, the government approved an ambitious ₹18,104-crore Integrated Township project spread across 7,488 acres in Ramanagara and Harohalli taluks. Landowners will be compensated either through direct payment or developed residential plots under a land-sharing model.

The Cabinet further approved procurement of 80 city buses for the North West Karnataka Road Transport Corporation.

For welfare programmes, ₹600 crore was earmarked for development of minority colonies during 2026-27 and 2027-28. Approval was also given for ₹115.84 crore to distribute school kits to children of registered construction workers. The government also approved establishment of a Government Tool Room and Training Centre in Jewargi, Kalaburagi, purchase of six MRI machines for district hospitals, and recruitment for 56,432 vacant government posts.

15 per cent NRI quota proposed for all govt medical colleges in K'taka

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Directorate of Medical Education has proposed introducing a 15 per cent Non-Resident Indian (NRI) quota across all government medical colleges in Karnataka, a move aimed at increasing institutional revenue and addressing funding gaps in medical education.

Last year, the NRI quota was introduced on a limited scale, applicable only to additional seats added after the first round of counselling. At that time, around 67 seats were offered under the quota, covering approximately 450 newly added seats. The new proposal seeks to extend the benefit across all MBBS and postgraduate seats in state-run institutions.

At present, Karnataka has around 4,200 MBBS seats in government medical colleges, of which 15 per cent fall under the all-India quota. The directorate has suggested a uniform fee of ₹25 lakh for MBBS seats under the proposed NRI category. For postgraduate courses, it has recommended a differential fee structure, with varying rates for clinical and para-clinical programmes.

"We have recommended a uniform fee structure for MBBS seats across colleges. However, for PG, we suggest different rates for clinical and paraclinical programmes," said Sujatha Rathod, Director of Medical Education.

The medical education department clarified that no final decision has been taken yet. Sources said the finance department has raised queries regarding the cost-benefit implications of the proposal and its long-term impact on access to medical education.

Officials argue that the proposal is intended to supplement government funding, as existing grants are considered insufficient to meet rising operational costs of medical colleges and hospitals. The department believes an expanded NRI quota could provide a steady additional revenue stream.

Currently, NRI admissions in Karnataka are restricted to private medical colleges, where MBBS fees reportedly range between ₹1 crore and ₹2.5 crore. Several agricultural and veterinary universities in the state already have up to 15 per cent NRI quota in place.

Similar policies exist in states like Haryana, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh and Punjab. However, the earlier attempt to introduce a broader NRI quota in Karnataka faced resistance from several stakeholders.

The proposal will require approval from the finance department followed by a final nod from the state cabinet before implementation.

RAIN HAVOC

COOL SHOWERS, CHAOTIC STREETS, TWO SIDES OF SUDDEN RAIN

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Rain was expected on Wednesday, but few anticipated the intensity it would unleash across Bengaluru as a 40-minute downpour disrupted normal life. Central and eastern parts bore the brunt, with commuters stranded at Metro stations, bus stops and office exits as ankle-deep water accumulated quickly.

With IMD issuing an orange alert, residents questioned whether the city is truly prepared for sudden rain events that have become increasingly frequent. Rahul Goyal, a trader on SJP Road, said authorities must explain what preventive steps have been taken to avoid flooding during short but intense showers, especially in commercial zones.

He added that dug-up roads, potholes and open manholes are major hazards for both motorists and pedestrians, urging civic agencies to complete desilting of drains without delay and ensure debris is not left blocking traffic. SJP Road, he said, was completely inundated, making movement extremely difficult for commuters.

P Dakshinya, a non-IT professional from Mahadevapura, said she was caught in the rain just as she was leaving

office and was surprised by how quickly streets turned into streams. What was a pleasant moment soon became a struggle as the route from bus stop to home was flooded within minutes.

Many commuters found their two-wheelers and cars partially submerged in low-lying areas such as Sultanpet and Kamaraj Road, while pedestrians struggled to navigate flooded stretches and exposed manholes on pavements that posed safety risks.

However, not everyone viewed the rain negatively. Those who stayed indoors welcomed the sudden change in weather, saying it brought much-needed relief from the scorching summer heat and improved overall comfort across the city.

Vihan Raj from Whitefield said the rain was a welcome break after weeks of rising temperatures, making travel to Koramangala for his internship more pleasant and less exhausting during daily commutes across the city.

Misha Baniya, a student from SG Palya, said the rain brings freshness to life, with earthy aromas and cool winds creating a calming atmosphere that helps ease stress and refresh the mind after long days.

Authorities said they are monitoring rain-affected areas after IMD issued an orange alert, and assured that teams have been deployed for clearing waterlogging, desilting drains and addressing complaints from residents across Bengaluru. Officials also urged citizens to report open manholes and avoid waterlogged stretches until conditions improve, as intermittent showers are likely to continue over the next few hours in several parts of the city. Officials said close monitoring.

QUICK READ

HC dismisses Mahesh Shetty Timarodi's deportation plea

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
The Karnataka High Court on Thursday dismissed a petition filed by activist Mahesh Shetty Timarodi challenging the order deporting him from Dakshina Kannada district to Manvi taluk in Raichur for the third time. Timarodi, who has been campaigning in connection with the death of a Belthangady student, had questioned the action taken by the Puttur Sub-Divisional Officer. A bench headed by Justice Sachin Shankar Magadum said the petitioner has an alternative legal remedy available by filing an appeal before the Home Secretary of the state government. The court orally directed authorities not to proceed further for two weeks, giving Timarodi time to approach the government with an appeal against the deportation order.

Heavy rain uprooted 226 trees: GBA officials

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Heavy rain accompanied by hailstorms and strong winds lashed Bengaluru on Wednesday evening, leaving several people dead and several others seriously injured after widespread damage across the city. According to Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) officials, 226 trees and 623 branches were uprooted between Wednesday evening and 9.15 am on Thursday due to intense winds and rain. Fallen trees and large branches damaged parked and moving vehicles in several areas, while waterlogging on major roads severely disrupted traffic movement across the city. Authorities said control rooms received numerous complaints related to uprooted trees, damaged electric poles and flooding. Officials added that 68 calls were specifically received regarding waterlogging issues in different localities.

HC grants interim stay on revised CERC DSM regulations

Court temporarily halts implementation of revised renewable energy deviation settlement rules across India

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court has granted an interim stay on the revised Deviation Settlement Mechanism (DSM) regulations introduced by the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) in 2024 and brought into effect from April 1 this year.

This interim order was issued by a single-judge bench headed by Justice KS Hemalekha, which heard the petitions filed by wind power generation companies.

The petitions were filed by the National Solar Federation of India, Renew Wind Energy (TN2), Sembcorp Green Inadhri, JSW Neo Energy and several other renewable energy firms challenging the amended regulations.

The court's order has come as temporary relief for the renewable energy sector, especially wind and solar power producers who argued that the revised rules impose impractical obligations on weather-dependent energy generation.

During the hearing, the petitioners informed the court that renewable energy generation cannot be controlled in the same manner as conventional thermal or hydroelectric power because output depends heavily on weather conditions such as wind speed and sunlight availability.

Senior counsel appearing for the petitioners also argued that CERC issued the amended regulations under Rules 6(2)(b) and 8(4) without complying with the mandatory prior publication requirement under Section 178(3) of the Electricity Act, 2003.

Under the revised DSM framework, renewable energy producers are required to declare estimated power generation for the next day and the following week in advance for every pooling station or generating unit. Any deviation from the declared schedule — either shortfall or excess generation — attracts financial penalties under the mechanism.

The petitioners contended that such stringent forecasting obligations and penalties would adversely affect the renewable energy industry, which inherently faces unpredictability due to changing weather patterns.

After considering the submissions, the bench directed that the revised DSM regulations should not be implemented for the time being and allowed the petitioners to continue under the earlier DSM regime until further orders.

The court also noted that the petitions remain under consideration and adjourned the matter for further hearing.

Meanwhile, CERC has issued notices to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting, and the Grid Controller of India, directing them to file objections and responses in the matter.

The case is expected to have wider implications for renewable energy operators across the country, as the DSM framework governs power scheduling, forecasting and grid discipline for electricity producers connected to the national grid.

India emerges as global hub for AI-driven mortgage operations

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

India has emerged as a major global centre for AI-driven mortgage operations as technology firm Moder announced rapid expansion of its workforce and services across international markets.

Founded in 2021, the company has grown to more than 7,400 employees worldwide, with over 5,000 specialists based in India. The firm said its Indian delivery hubs are playing a key role in supporting rising global demand for faster and more efficient financial services.

The mortgage industry across several countries is increasingly moving away from manual paperwork and labour-intensive processes due to rising operational costs and delays in loan approvals. Moder said it is addressing these challenges through its AI-powered "modeIQ" platform, developed in partnership with Palantir Technologies. The platform converts complex financial and lending policies into automated workflows, helping banks and lenders process mortgage applications more quickly while reducing manual errors and improving operational efficiency.

Moder CEO Erik Anderson said traditional mortgage processing systems are becoming unsustainable because of high costs and dependence on manual operations. He stated that India's large technology talent base and scalable workforce are central to transforming the future of global home loan processing.

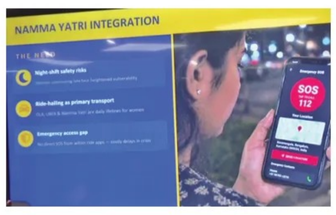
The company has also partnered with technology firms such as Gateless and Xpanse to strengthen underwriting systems and improve customer support capabilities.

Alongside its business expansion, Moder announced a sustainability initiative to plant 5,000 saplings across Karnataka districts including Chikkamagaluru and Koppal by July this year. The company said the programme reflects its commitment to environmentally responsible growth. Moder is also expanding operations in the Philippines, Guatemala and the United States as part of its next growth phase.

B'luru Police's 'Namma 112' now available in multiple languages, first in India

Bengaluru City Police Department's emergency helpline 'Namma 112' has been equipped with multilingual voice artificial intelligence technology.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU



The Bengaluru City Police has introduced multilingual voice artificial intelligence technology for its emergency helpline 'Namma 112', becoming the first police department in the country to launch such a system aimed at breaking language barriers during emergencies.The initiative was launched by Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara, who described it as a major technological step towards improving public safety and accessibility in a cosmopolitan city like Bengaluru.

Known as 'VANKI' — Voice AI for Nationwide Key Interventions — the system has been developed to assist callers speaking different Indian and foreign languages. Bengaluru, home to lakhs of migrants, students, IT professionals and tourists from across the world, often witnesses communication difficulties during emergencies. Police officials said the new technology has been designed to ensure that language differences do not delay assistance.

The AI-powered emergency response system currently supports more than 10 Indian languages, including Kannada, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Marathi. In addition, it can understand and process foreign languages such as Spanish, French and Arabic.Officials explained that when a caller speaks in their preferred language, the AI system instantly interprets the message and relays the required information to police personnel in real time. Authorities believe this will significantly reduce response time and improve the accuracy of emergency communication.

Speaking at the launch, Home Minister G Parameshwara said the police department continues to adopt technology-driven measures to strengthen law enforcement and public safety in the state. Referring to anti-drug operations in Bengaluru, he said the government has instructed police to intensify efforts against drug trafficking, production and consumption.

He noted that special task forces have been formed and that police are actively working to eliminate drug-related activities in Bengaluru and across Karnataka. The minister added that the department has shown commitment and efficiency in handling these operations.

Parameshwara also praised Bengaluru Police for maintaining effective security arrangements during the five IPL matches held in the city so far. He said police teams from Mumbai, Hyderabad and Delhi had visited Bengaluru to study the city's crowd and security management systems during major sporting events.

Police officials said the multilingual AI platform reflects the department's larger vision of making emergency services more inclusive and citizen-friendly.

Minister Sharan Prakash visits Bowring Hospital after wall collapse tragedy

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Medical Education Minister Dr Sharan Prakash Patil on Thursday visited Bowring and Lady Curzon Hospital following the recent compound wall collapse that claimed seven lives and injured several others during heavy rain in Bengaluru.

During the visit, the minister met the injured victims undergoing treatment and enquired about their health condition. He also reviewed the situation with hospital officials and directed authorities to immediately assess the structural safety of government hospital buildings across the city.

Dr Patil instructed officials from the Public Works Department and other concerned agencies to conduct detailed inspections of old hospital buildings and compound walls at major institutions including Bowring Hospital, Victoria Hospital, KC General Hospital and CV Raman Nagar Hospital.

He said the government is treating the incident seriously and has directed all departments to ensure preventive measures are taken to avoid similar accidents in future.

The minister further stated that the Chief Engineer of the civic body has been asked to conduct a technical inspection of the collapsed wall and submit a comprehensive report. Appropriate action, he said, would be taken based on the findings of the inquiry.

Dr Patil confirmed that the state government has announced compensation of ₹5 lakh for the families of those who died in the incident. He also assured that all injured persons would receive free medical treatment.

The tragedy occurred on Wednesday evening after heavy rainfall weakened the compound wall near Bowring Hospital, causing it to collapse suddenly.

K'taka releases draft excise reforms policy for public consultation

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka government has released the draft Karnataka State Excise Reforms 2026 policy for public consultation, proposing major changes aimed at creating a more citizen-centric and socially responsible excise framework.

According to a press release issued by the Chief Minister's Office, the new policy seeks to align alcohol pricing with the broader social costs associated with consumption. While alcohol currently generates around ₹34,600 crore in annual revenue for the state, the estimated social costs linked to road accidents, domestic violence, liver disease, alcohol addiction and loss of household income are said to exceed ₹51,000 crore.

The proposed reforms include a strength-based taxation model where excise duty will be linked to alcohol content along with VAT. The draft also suggests QR-code-based supply chain tracking, simplified digital licensing systems, standardised health warnings and a shift from the current quota-based retail system to a registration-based framework.

Restricted liquor sale zones near schools and hospitals have also been proposed.

The government stated that a portion of excise revenue would be earmarked for de-addiction services, road safety initiatives, domestic violence prevention and youth awareness programmes.

The reforms aim to reduce alcohol consumption by 8 to 9 per cent over six years, encourage lower-strength beverages and strengthen monitoring mechanisms to curb illicit trade.

Citizens and stakeholders have been invited to submit feedback through the official consultation portal and WhatsApp chatbot.

Sustainable data parks to be established in Bengaluru, Mysuru and Mangaluru

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A decision has been taken to establish sustainable data centre parks in Bengaluru, Mysuru and Mangaluru to support industrial growth in Karnataka during a meeting of concerned ministers held on Thursday.

The preliminary meeting, held at Shakti Bhavan in Bengaluru, was attended by Energy Minister KJ George, Large and Medium Industries Minister MB Patil and IT Minister Priyank Kharge.

A 500 MW sustainable data centre park will be established near Hoskote on the outskirts of Bengaluru. Solar power supplied from Pavagada will be directly connected to the facility. The Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has also assured supply of 60 MLD of treated water in two phases. The industries themselves will undertake tertiary-level treatment of the water. Ministers said the combined capacity of all three proposed parks will be 1,000 MW.

In Mangaluru, land is already available for the project. Around 350 acres belonging to KIADB in the Baikampady industrial area has been identified. In Mysuru, suitable land for the project will be identified shortly, they said.

The ministers directed officials to make necessary preparations so that companies investing in data centres at these parks can be assured uninterrupted power and water supply. They also suggested holding meetings with potential investors soon.

GREAT ACHIEVEMENT

Workers' Assn hails Patil for KSDL's historic growth

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Government Soap Factory Workers' Association on Thursday congratulated Large and Medium Industries Minister MB Patil, crediting his "visionary leadership" for the historic achievement. A delegation led by association president Michael Fernandes met the minister at his Bengaluru residence and felicitated him.

State-owned Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Limited (KSDL) has recorded its highest-ever financial performance in 2025-26, achieving a turnover of ₹2,016 crore and a net profit of ₹507 crore for the first time in the company's history.

Speaking on the occasion, Fernandes said the 110-year-old public sector company had crossed the ₹2,000-crore turnover mark for the first time and also achieved record production figures during the last financial year.

"KSDL has recorded production of 47,494 metric tonnes, which is the highest ever in the history of the soap factory. This achievement reflects the far-sighted thinking and guidance of Minister MB Patil," he said.

Fernandes also acknowledged the role of KSDL chairman CS Appaji Nadagouda, the company's management and employees in helping the organisation achieve the milestone. He said the collective effort of the leadership and staff had helped strengthen the brand presence and improve operational performance. The association noted that the minister has been planning several new initiatives to further increase production capacity and expand the company's market reach in the coming years.

QUICK READ

DK Shivakumar to visit Vijayanagar district

CH NEWS,Koppal

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar will visit Vijayanagar district on May 3. He will travel by helicopter from HAL Airport Bengaluru at 7.30 am and land at Hampi Kannada University campus at 9 am. At 9.10 am he will leave for Tungabhadra reservoir and inspect crest gate installation works at 9.30 am. After inspection, he will depart at 11 am and return to Kannada University campus at 11.20 am. Later at 11.30 am he will leave the helipad and proceed towards Sindhanur in Raichur district. Officials said arrangements have been made for the visit and inspection programme smoothly planned.

Free mobile repair training for rural youth

CH NEWS,Haveri

Uttara Kannada district's Haliyal Canara Bank Deshpande RSET Training Institute has invited applications for free mobile repair and service training scheduled in May for unemployed rural youth. The programme aims to provide skill development and job opportunities for participants. Candidates aged between 18 and 45 years can apply, with preference given to unemployed applicants from rural areas. The training will be completely free and includes food and accommodation facilities. Interested candidates should apply to the Director, Deshpande RSET Institute, Haliyal, Uttara Kannada district or through the official contact details provided. For more information contact 897014534 or 9483485489 said in statement.

Husband surrenders after killing wife in Mysuru

Mysuru

In Mysuru's Hale Kesare village, a man named Mahesh surrendered to police after killing his wife Pushpa in a shocking domestic dispute. Pushpa, 24, worked in a private clothing shop and often returned home late from work, which led to frequent arguments between the couple. Police said the argument escalated on Wednesday night, leading to the tragic incident, after which the accused went to the station and surrendered. Police have taken Mahesh into custody, sent the body for postmortem, and are continuing investigation into the case to understand the exact sequence of events and motive behind the crime further details.

Six Congress leaders expelled over party allegations charges

Manjappa accused leaders of harming party image, opposed Abdul Jabbar's reinstatement, and warned of protests against such move

DAVANGERE

The Davangere District Congress has expelled six leaders for alleged anti-party activities during the Davangere South Assembly by-election, escalating internal tensions within the party. District Congress President H.B. Manjappa announced the action at a press conference.The expelled leaders include supporters of MLC Abdul Jabbar—M.T. Subhash Chandra, former Waqf Board President Siraj Ahmed, Congress leader Ghani Taher, Kadati Tippesh, U.M. Mansoor Ali, and Inayatullah Khan. The party had earlier taken disciplinary action against Abdul Jabbar himself for similar charges.

Manjappa said the leaders had acted against party interests and damaged its image during the by-election. He also strongly objected to attempts to bring Abdul Jabbar back into the party after he was expelled by AICC and KPCC for six years. He warned that any move to reinstate him would be met with protests.He alleged that some individuals had made statements and actions that insulted party leaders and weakened the Congress campaign during the election period. He said the district unit has already submitted a recommendation to the state leadership seeking strict action.Davanagere South Block Congress President Ayub Pailwan also supported the decision and said evidence, including video clips, had been presented showing anti-party activities by the expelled members. He warned that party workers would stage protests in front of the KPCC office if Abdul Jabbar is taken back into the party. He further demanded that Jabbar be removed from his MLC position.

Former Mayor Chaman Saab urged party workers to remain united and avoid internal divisions. He said upcoming local body elections, including Zilla Panchayat, Taluk Panchayat, and Gram Panchayat polls, require strong coordination. He also cautioned against mixing religion with politics, stating it could harm Muslim candidates in local elections.

Party leaders emphasized that disciplinary action was necessary to protect the party's unity and electoral prospects. The incident has highlighted growing internal differences in the district Congress unit ahead of upcoming elections.

Forest department employees demand job security rights

Protesters said Minister Eshwar Khandre supported their issues, but officials failed to act, forcing them to resume strike due to unfulfilled promises

CHAMARAJANAGAR

Temporary employees of the Forest Department's Wildlife Division have launched an indefinite strike at the Bandipur Safari Centre in Gundlupet taluk, demanding job security and direct salary payments from the department.

More than 500 outsourced and daily wage workers from various parts of the state joined the protest, led by Outsourced Employees Association president A.M. Nagaraju. The workers said they are opposing the outsourcing system and want the Forest Department to take direct responsibility for salaries and service benefits.

The employees alleged that despite earlier protests and assurances from the government, their demands have not been fulfilled. They recalled that over 4,000 temporary forest workers had staged demonstrations last November, but no concrete action was taken afterward.

The protesters said Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre had expressed support for resolving their issues, but senior officials have not followed through. They warned that repeated promises without implementation have forced them to restart the strike.

Workers said that earlier they received salaries and benefits under a welfare system, but after changes made in 2017, payments are being routed through outsourcing agencies. They claimed this system has led to irregular salaries, lack of benefits, and job insecurity.With new contracts being prepared from April 1, the workers demanded that the current outsourcing model not be continued. They insisted that a permanent solution must be announced immediately to ensure fair wages and stability.

Nagaraju warned that the strike would continue until the government provides written assurance on their demands. He also said that workers play a crucial role in protecting wildlife and forests, especially during the summer season when fire risks and animal movement increase.

The protesters cautioned that any disruption in forest duties could lead to serious consequences during the heatwave period, and held senior officials responsible for the situation.

The strike has affected routine operations at Bandipur, and workers have urged the government to intervene quickly and resolve the long-standing issues faced by temporary forest staff across the state.

Nagesh condemned alleged involvement of doctors in illegal foetal destruction cases, calling it shocking, unacceptable, and unforgivable

DEMAND FOR STRICT ACTION IN FOETAL SEX DETECTION CASES

CH NEWS,MANDYA

Jagrita Karnataka District Convener N. Nagesh has demanded strict legal punishment for doctors and others involved in illegal female foetal sex determination cases, calling for scanning centres linked to such activities to be permanently blacklisted.

He said repeated incidents of female foetal sex detection in Mandya district have brought shame to society and the medical profession. He expressed concern that the district has been ranked second in the state for such cases, which reflects a serious social and administrative failure.

He recalled several disturbing incidents, including a 2024 case in Pandavapura where hundreds of female foetuses were allegedly destroyed using scanning equipment in a house, and another reported case in 2025 at Pandavapura Government Hospital quarters. Similar cases were also reported in areas like Hadya and Shivalli.

Nagesh said that recent allegations against medical professionals, including doctors from private diagnostic centres and even a government hospital, have shocked the public. He strongly condemned the involvement of women doctors in such cases, calling it a highly unfortunate and unacceptable act. He said there can be no forgiveness for those responsible for destroying female foetuses before birth.

He pointed out that data shows a growing imbalance in the male and female population ratio in the district, which indicates the seriousness of the issue. He said the repeated mention of Mandya in such cases is deeply embarrassing for the district.

While welcoming the formation of Taluk Vigilance Committees to monitor scanning centres, he questioned their effectiveness, alleging that weak monitoring and lack of accountability among officials have allowed such illegal activities to continue. He also criticised the functioning of health authorities, saying timely action and strict supervision are missing.

He demanded that the district administration and government take strong legal steps to completely stop illegal sex determination practices. He suggested continuous monitoring of scanning centres by vigilance committees and strict punishment, including permanent closure of centres found guilty even once.

He concluded that protecting the girl child is a social responsibility and called for united action from authorities, health officials and the public to prevent such crimes and ensure strict enforcement of the law.

Health officials strengthen heatwave response across Karnataka

BALLARI

With rising temperatures and an ongoing heatwave across Karnataka, special sunstroke treatment wards have been set up in major government hospitals in Ballari and Mysuru to handle heat-related emergencies.In Ballari district, ten-bed sunstroke wards have been opened at the District Hospital and VIMS Hospital as an emergency precaution. Health officials said similar arrangements have also been made in taluk hospitals with five-bed facilities each to treat heatstroke patients.District health authorities said the extreme heat between 12 noon and 5 pm has increased health risks, especially for children, elderly people and outdoor workers.

Laptop distribution drive supports tribal students education

HUNSUR

A laptop distribution and awareness programme on child marriage and POCSO Act was organised by the Karnataka State Forest-Based Adivasi Development Organization at Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Bhavan in Hunsur city.

The programme was inaugurated by Additional District Superintendent of Police Malik and Assistant Conservator of Forests, Hunsur Wildlife Division, Laxmikant.

Addressing the gathering, the Additional SP advised students to use the distributed laptops effectively for education and to build a better future. He also urged them to stay aware of strict legal provisions under the POCSO Act and avoid any activities that could lead to criminal cases. He further encouraged students to strongly oppose child marriage and contribute to social awareness.

Assistant Conservator of Forests Laxmikant said that tribal students should make full use of government support and digital tools like laptops to pursue higher education and improve their livelihoods. He added that educated tribal youth should aim for government jobs and become role models for others in their community.

Officials including Hunsur Deputy SP Ravi, Taluk Executive Officer Hongaiah, Field Education Officer Kalanayaka, and Health Department officers Rajeshwari and Dr. Ravikumar participated in the programme.

Chitradurga Yadava Gollara Sangha election schedule announced

CH NEWS,CHITRADURGA

The election schedule for the 15-member administrative board of the District Yadava Gollara Sangha in Chitradurga has been officially announced, election officials confirmed.Chitradurga Tahsildar and election officer B.M. Govindaraju said the voting will be held on May 17 at the Government Girls' High School building on B.D. Road in the city. The process will be conducted as per the bylaws of the cooperative society.

People-centric governance is true democracy: Ruchi Bindal

CH NEWS,HAVERI

Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Ruchi Bindal said that true democracy is achieved when administration responds effectively to the needs of people at the village level. She emphasized that the Panchayat system forms the foundation of the country's development and urged officials to implement government schemes responsibly.

She was speaking at the National Panchayat Raj Day celebration held at the Zilla Panchayat Hall on Thursday.

Bindal said that National Panchayat Raj Day is observed every year on April 24 to mark the enforcement of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment, which gave constitutional status to local self-governance in rural India. The amendment, passed in 1992 and implemented in 1993, strengthened the Panchayat system and brought governance closer to the people.

She explained that the amendment created a three-tier system of governance consisting of Gram Panchayat, Taluk Panchayat, and Zilla Panchayat. This structure allows people to directly participate in administration and ensures that democracy functions at the grassroots level.

She highlighted that the system promotes equal representation by providing reservation for women, Scheduled Castes, and other communities. The provision of at least 33 percent reservation for women has significantly strengthened women's participation in rural leadership, with many states increasing it to 50 percent.

Bindal also stressed the importance of Gram Sabhas as a platform for direct public participation. She said that decisions on development works, planning, expenditure review, and social audit are carried out through Gram Sabhas, ensuring transparency and accountability.

She noted that 29 subjects, including agriculture, health, education, drinking water, sanitation, and rural roads, have been devolved to Panchayats, enabling them to plan and implement development according to local needs.

DISTRICT AWARD CEREMONY

State Government Employees Day celebrated at district level

CH NEWS,KOPPAL

Government employees play a key role in delivering public services and act as the backbone of administration, said District Guarantee Scheme Implementation Authority Chairman Reddy Srinivas. He was speaking after inaugurating the State Government Employees Day celebration and District Level Best Service Award ceremony held at the District Administration auditorium on Thursday.

The event was organized jointly by the district administration and the Karnataka State Government Employees Association, Koppal branch. Addressing the gathering, Srinivas said government employees ensure that welfare schemes reach deserving people and perform their duties with commitment and a service-minded approach. He highlighted that major schemes, including the government's five guarantee programmes, have been successfully implemented with the support of employees. In Koppal district alone, around 3.20 lakh beneficiaries have received benefits under the Grihalakshmi scheme.

District Collector Dr. Suresh B. Itnal said government employees serve as a bridge between the government and the public. He noted that the quality of their work reflects the image of the government. He urged employees to carry out their responsibilities efficiently, remain polite and compassionate towards citizens, and maintain a balance between work, health, and family life.

Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Varnit Negi said dedicating a special day to government employees is unique and recognizes their valuable contribution. He encouraged staff to maintain a positive attitude despite work pressure and to perform their duties with sincerity and dedication.Senior Vice President and District President of the Government Employees Association Nagaraj R.

Pro-Kannada groups protest civic issues in Chamarajanagar

CHAMARAJANAGAR

Activists of pro-Kannada organisations staged a strong protest in Chamarajanagar on Thursday, raising concerns over poor civic conditions in the city. The protesters gathered in front of the City Corporation office holding brooms and raised slogans against the municipal commissioner and administrator, demanding immediate action on public issues.They accused the civic body of failing to maintain cleanliness in all 31 wards of the city. The activists said garbage management has worsened and sanitation work is not being carried out properly, affecting daily life of residents. They also demanded urgent steps to ensure regular supply of clean drinking water and warned against distribution of contaminated water.The protesters further urged authorities to revive neglected city parks and improve basic facilities for the public. They said essential services like e-property work and municipal document updates are being delayed, forcing citizens to visit the corporation office multiple times without resolution.

QUICK READ

Kodagu tour planned for development meetings

Madikeri

Karnataka State Decentralization Planning and Development Committee Vice President D. R. Patil will visit Kodagu district on May 3 and 4. On May 3, he will attend a Gram Sabha at Hoddur Gram Panchayat limits at 4.30 pm, followed by a Gram Panchayat meeting at 6.30 pm. On May 4, a district-level meeting will be held at 10.30 am in the Kodagu Zilla Panchayat Hall to prepare the 2027–28 "People's Plan." Later at 12.30 pm, he will attend the district planning committee meeting. Officials said the tour aims to strengthen local planning and development discussions across the district.

Malaria awareness drive continues in Chikkaballapura

Chikkaballapura

World Malaria Day is being observed in Chikkaballapura district till May 2 with the theme "Driven to End Malaria: Now we can, Now we must." District Health and Family Welfare Officer Dr. Mahesh Kumar said the awareness programme began on April 25. Officials explained that malaria is spread by infected Anopheles mosquitoes and symptoms include fever, chills, headache, and nausea within 10 to 14 days. People are advised to get free blood tests at government hospitals for any fever. The Health Department also urged citizens to prevent stagnant water, use mosquito nets, and support spraying activities for effective disease control in the district.

Mallamma Jayanti Celebration Set for Kodagu on May 10

Madikeri

A Shivasharane Hemareddy Mallamma Jayanti programme will be held on May 10 at 11 am at Gandhi Bhavan in Madikeri. The event is jointly organised by the District Administration, Zilla Panchayat, and the Kannada and Culture Department. Several dignitaries are expected to participate, including Minister N.S. Bhosaraju, MLA Dr. Mantar Gowda, legal advisor and MLA A.S. Ponnanna, MP Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wodeyar, and Rajya Sabha member Ajay Maken. Other officials, legislators, and district administration officers will also attend. Organisers said the event aims to honour the legacy of Shivasharane Hemareddy Mallamma and promote cultural values among the public in Kodagu district.

Ashok Mandali highlights improvements in healthcare system

Mandali said 148 taluk hospitals have 24/7 specialists and 108 ambulance service strengthened under government control

CH NEWS,GADAG

Gadag District Congress Campaign Committee President Ashok Mandali said that the Congress government has taken strong and planned steps to improve the health system in Karnataka over the last 2.5 years, aiming to provide better medical services to all citizens.Speaking at a press briefing, he said the state government has allocated ₹17,473 crore for the health sector in the 2026–27 budget, placing Karnataka among the top five states in India in per capita health spending.He said infant mortality has reduced from 17% in 2021 to 14% in 2023, while ₹320 crore has been allocated to reduce maternal deaths. Under the "Lakshya" programme, maternity wards, ICUs, and operation theatres have been upgraded. The government has also set up 11 breast milk banks to reduce newborn deaths and aims to bring maternal and infant mortality rates to single digits by 2030.Mandali said 148 taluk hospitals now have 24/7 specialists in gynaecology, anaesthesia, and paediatrics. The 108 ambulance service has also been strengthened and brought fully under government control to improve emergency response.

He highlighted the "Home Health" scheme, which provides door-to-door health screening, blood tests, ECG, and medicine distribution through ASHA workers and health officers. In serious cases, free treatment is provided in government hospitals. The scheme, first launched in Kolar, has now been expanded statewide.He said the government is also focusing on controlling non-communicable diseases, banning substandard medicines and harmful food colours, and improving rural healthcare infrastructure. Around 32,000 health posts are being filled, and salaries of doctors and nurses under the National Health Mission have been revised.Mandali added that major investments are being made, including ₹413 crore for a comprehensive health scheme, ₹1,800 crore for Bengaluru development projects, and upgrades to district and taluk hospitals. More than 262 ambulances have been added, and over 6,000 health and wellness centres are functioning across rural areas.He said Karnataka is working towards reducing maternal deaths below global targets by 2030 and strengthening emergency, cardiac, and neurological care systems across the state.Officials said these initiatives aim to improve healthcare access, strengthen rural services, and ensure quality treatment for all citizens.

₹1.5 crore road work launched in Bidar

CH NEWS,BIDAR

Road development works worth ₹1.5 crore were launched in Bidar South constituency with the performance of a ground-breaking ceremony by MLA Dr. Shailendra Beldale. The project connects Mannaekhelli village with Nidavancha, Hochakanalli, and Ranjol Kheni villages.

Speaking on the occasion, the MLA said the new road will bring better development opportunities to the region and improve the living standards of people in the surrounding villages. He said the project is being taken up with the vision of "our area, our development."

He added that once the work is completed, village connectivity will improve significantly, allowing faster and safer transport for the public.

All India Radio phone-in program gets strong public response

CH NEWS,MADIKERI

All India Radio's direct phone-in programme "Searching for Light" received a good response from the public as District Magistrate S.J. Somashekhar listened to grievances raised by citizens from various parts of the district.

During the one-hour programme, more than 16 callers contacted the helpline and shared issues related to basic civic needs such as road repairs, drinking water supply, street lighting, land records, and other public concerns.

Ganesh Kumar from Kothur village in Virajpet taluk raised the issue of difficulty in purchasing fertilizer without an FID card. In response, the Deputy Commissioner clarified that there has been no change in the fertilizer supply system and assured there is no need for concern.

Harris from Seventh New Fort near Sutikoppa requested land correction work, to which the official said instructions would be issued to the concerned officer.Vani from Kuradalu village in Madikeri taluk highlighted the difficulties faced by a disabled family member due to lack of proper road access. She requested an asphalt road, and the Deputy Commissioner assured priority action and coordination with local MLAs.Several other callers raised issues including delayed land surveys, incomplete road works, drinking water shortages during summer, and pending housing applications. Officials responded to many of the complaints, promising follow-up action and departmental coordination.The Deputy Commissioner also directed officials to speed up land measurement, improve water supply systems, and resolve civic issues in coordination with municipal authorities and panchayats.Some callers suggested monthly public grievance meetings and surprise visits to government offices to improve accountability.

Over 16 callers raised civic issues like roads, water, lighting, land records, and housing; officials responded, promising follow-up action and inter-departmental coordination

The programme was conducted under the guidance of programme manager M. Shakuntala. AIR Madikeri station officials and district department representatives were present during the interaction.Officials said the initiative helped bridge communication between the administration and the public, allowing citizens to directly raise their issues and receive immediate responses.

Narasimha Jayanti celebrated with devotion in Magadi

CH NEWS,MAGADI

Narasimha Jayanti was celebrated with great devotion and enthusiasm at Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple in Kempegowda Nagar, Magadi town, where a large number of devotees gathered for special prayers and rituals.

Magadi MLA H.C. Balakrishna participated in the programme and offered special prayers to Lord Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy. Speaking on the occasion, he said that the Narasimha incarnation symbolises the destruction of evil and the establishment of righteousness. He called upon people to follow the path of devotion and work towards peace and harmony in society.

The MLA said that society can progress only when people stay away from negative thoughts and move in the right direction. He also stressed the importance of communal harmony and said that all religions must coexist peacefully for the country's development. He added that festivals should serve as a bridge to unite people rather than remain only ceremonial events.He assured that the government is committed to the development of temples in Magadi region and promised additional grants in the coming days to improve basic facilities for devotees. He also prayed for good rainfall and a successful agricultural season, expressing hope that farmers would be protected from hardship.Former Municipal President K.N. Narasegowda said Narasimha Jayanti represents the victory of good over evil and strengthens faith among devotees. He noted that the temple, built with community cooperation, is growing in importance and attracting more devotees every year.

Ramappa urged faster scheme implementation, highlighting welfare programs like Ganga Kalyan, self-employment, entrepreneurship, and livestock development initiatives

CIBIL SCORE SHOULD NOT BLOCK WELFARE BENEFITS: RAMAPPA

CH NEWS,CHITRADURGA

Karnataka Bhovi Development Corporation Chairman M. Ramappa has directed officials to ensure that CIBIL scores or technical issues do not prevent eligible beneficiaries from receiving government scheme benefits. He stressed that welfare measures must reach deserving people without delay.Speaking after visiting the district Bhovi Development Corporation office in Chitradurga, he reviewed progress and held discussions with officials. He said several schemes aimed at economic empowerment of poor communities are being implemented, and beneficiaries should not be misled due to banking complications like credit scores.Ramappa said he has already instructed district authorities to speed up implementation of schemes without focusing too much on security or technical barriers. He added that along with the five guarantee schemes of the state government, the corporation is implementing six major programs, including Ganga Kalyan, Self Employment Direct Credit, Entrepreneurship Development, Self Reliance Chariot and dairy related activities such as sheep, goat and cattle rearing.He emphasized that all pending works under the Ganga Kalyan scheme should be completed by the end of May, as the rainy season could delay fieldwork. Clear instructions have been given to officials across the state to complete borewell-related works on priority.The Chairman said the corporation is committed to improving the economic condition of the Bhovi community. Skill development programmes like tailoring training are being conducted to promote self employment. A 75 day training workshop will begin in Mysuru on May 4 for men and women aged between 20 and 45. Free meals will be provided, and sewing machines will be given to those who complete the training successfully.

He also said similar training will begin in Challakere soon, and a special two day workshop is planned in Bagalkote district in May. In a new initiative, the corporation plans to provide tractors instead of cars, and also supply construction equipment like steel centering materials and Ajax machines to support workers in the community.

Community life camp builds leadership skills: Srikanth

CH NEWS,RAMANAGARA

A three-day community life camp organised by Rajajinagar Education College for B.Ed trainees concluded successfully, with speakers highlighting its role in shaping leadership qualities and personality development among students.Vice President of Rajajinagar Education College, Srikanth, said that such camps provide a strong platform for developing patience, tolerance, adaptability, and leadership skills along with practical life education.

Speaking at the closing ceremony held in Ramanagara, he said students who remain only in classrooms do not gain complete knowledge. He urged trainees to actively participate in such camps to build awareness, confidence, and concentration.He added that community life camps give students exposure to social, economic, and real-life issues, helping them become responsible citizens. According to him, such experiences are essential for future teachers as they play a key role in shaping society.

Haveri observes Parinibbana Day of Prof. Krishnappa

CH NEWS,HAVERI

The 29th Parinibbana Day of Prof. B. Krishnappa, founder of the Karnataka Dalit Sangharsh Samiti, was observed in Haveri with tributes and discussions on his social work.

Speaking at the programme, Karnataka State Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, Backward Classes and Minorities Welfare Committee president Udachappa Malgi said Prof. Krishnappa worked tirelessly for the oppressed and inspired many through his struggles. He described him as a strong voice for justice and called his life a model for society.

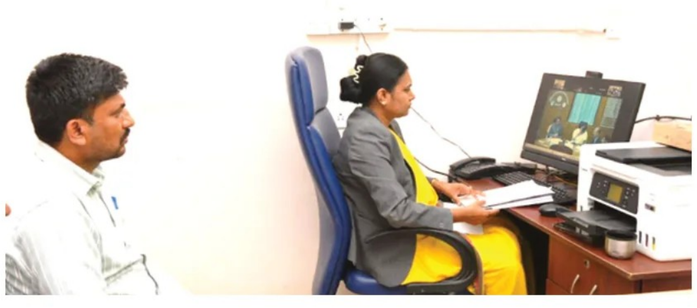
Malgi said Krishnappa is remembered as a key leader of the Dalit movement and compared his contribution to that of Dr B.R. Ambedkar. He urged people to continue his mission against social inequality and uphold his ideals.

FAST JUSTICE MISSION

District Legal Services Authority conducts Lok Adalat

CH NEWS,CHIKKABALLAPURA

The first Special Lok Adalat has begun today across the country under the guidance of the Supreme Court, aimed at providing quick and amicable settlement of long-pending cases, officials said.Senior Civil Judge and Member Secretary of the District Legal Services Authority B. Shilpa said the programme is being conducted as per directions of the Supreme Court and coordinated through video conferencing with the State Legal Services Authority.She said that in Chikkaballapura district alone, 17 cases pending before the Supreme Court have been identified for possible settlement through conciliation. She urged concerned parties in these cases to approach the nearest taluk or district mediation centres for settlement without travelling to Delhi.Officials said the Special Lok Adalat system provides a golden opportunity for eligible cases to be resolved through mutual agreement. The process is part of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, which allows disputes to be settled outside regular court proceedings through mediation and compromise.Authorities explained that decisions taken in Lok Adalats carry the same legal validity as civil court judgments. The main aim is to reduce the burden of pending cases, ensure faster justice, and provide affordable legal solutions to citizens.The system mainly covers civil disputes such as bank loan issues, motor accident claims, and family-related cases, encouraging parties to resolve matters through dialogue instead of lengthy trials. Officials said this initiative helps people avoid years of waiting for justice and promotes a single-day resolution mechanism in suitable cases. Court officials and media representatives were present during the programme. Authorities expressed hope that Special Lok Adalats will strengthen the justice delivery system by making it faster, simpler, and more accessible to the public across the country.



Teachers rejoice as former students meet in Pavagada

PAVAGADA

A heartfelt Guru Vandane and friendship reunion was held at Rashtriya Vidyapeeth High School in Y.N. Hosakote village of Pavagada taluk, where former SSLC students of the 2001–02 batch met their teachers.Retired teacher Madhusreenivas said it is a proud moment for any teacher to see students grow into responsible citizens. He said students who remember their school and teachers even after achieving success reflect true culture. He also advised everyone to keep learning throughout life and remain humble despite success.

Retired vice principal Mohammed Hussain said teachers do not only teach academics but also life values, and seeing students succeed is the greatest reward. He thanked the students for bringing back old memories through the reunion.Students shared memories of their school days and honoured their teachers with respect. As a gesture of gratitude, they were gifted a poetry collection titled Iddangirudu by Madhusreenivas.

QUICK READ

Gadag passport centre urges public services use

CH NEWS,Gadag

Gadag Divisional Postal Superintendent S. S. Shirahatti has urged citizens to make use of the Passport Seva Kendra at Gadag City Post Office for all passport-related services. The centre is functioning smoothly and offers services including fresh passport applications, renewal, re-issue, and corrections of details such as name, address, and date of birth. It also handles lost or damaged passport re-issue, minor passport applications, police verification, application tracking, and guidance support. Applicants must first apply online through the official passport website, upload documents, and then visit the centre on the allotted date with originals and copies for verification process completed smoothly.

Mandya to face long power cut on May 1

CH NEWS ,Mandya

A scheduled power outage will be observed on May 1 from 9 am to 6 pm in several villages under the 66/11 KV Kolkaranadoddy power distribution centre. The shutdown is planned due to link line installation work on the F-07 Pura feeder route. During this period, power supply will be affected in areas including T. Malligere, Taggahalli, Haluvadi, Pura, Marasinganahalli, Thimmanahosuru, Loksar, Loksar Farm, Kammanayakanahalli and nearby villages. Officials said the work is necessary for system improvement. The Chamundeshwari Electricity Supply Corporation Limited Kottatti sub-division assistant executive engineer R. T. Chandramouli requested public cooperation during the maintenance period.

Power cut alert in Kodagu areas on May 2

CH NEWS ,Madikeri

Emergency maintenance work will be carried out on the F11 Kotur and F15 Bekkesodlur feeders of the 66/11 KV Ponnampete distribution substation on May 2 from 10 am to 5 pm. During this period, power supply will be disrupted in several areas including Thuchamakeri, Ballyamandur, Chikkamandur, Kotur, Mugutageri, Bekkesodlur, Kanur, Vaddaramada, Nidugumba and nearby villages. Officials said the shutdown is necessary for urgent maintenance work to ensure better service in the future. The Executive Engineer of the Chavisani Works and Maintenance Department has requested residents to cooperate and make necessary arrangements during the scheduled power interruption time period.

MLA Pappi meets DCM, seeks water for lakes

MLA said lake water release will improve groundwater, provide drinking water for people and livestock, and support farmers long-term

CH NEWS,CHITRADURGA

Chitradurga MLA K.C. Veerendra Pappi met Deputy Chief Minister and Water Resources Minister D.K. Shivakumar and discussed measures to ensure drinking and irrigation water for farmers in the constituency.

The MLA said that the Deputy Chief Minister has given a positive response to his request to supply safe water to lakes under the Bharamsagar Lift Irrigation Project and also to include additional lakes in the Bhadra Upper Bank Project.

During the meeting held at the minister's office, the MLA submitted a proposal seeking inclusion of eight lakes in Chitradurga taluk, including Kurubarahatti, Katihalli, Siddapura, Manangi, Hullur, Thimmannanayakana, Nandeepura and Annehalu lakes, under the project.

He explained that under the existing Detailed Project Report (DPR), only nine lakes are planned for filling, while a large number of farmers in other areas remain dependent on irrigation support. He urged that the remaining lakes also be covered under the project.

The MLA said that releasing water to these lakes will help improve groundwater levels in surrounding villages and also provide drinking water for both people and livestock. He added that the move would bring long-term relief to farmers in the region.

According to him, the Deputy Chief Minister assured that the proposal would be examined with officials and necessary steps would be taken to include the additional lakes in the project. He also indicated that the matter would be discussed in the upcoming review meeting for further action.

Veerendra Pappi expressed confidence that the initiative would benefit thousands of farmers and improve irrigation facilities in the constituency.wThe MLA said he will continue to pursue the matter until all eligible lakes are included and water supply is ensured for the region's agricultural needs.

B. C. Sivanandamurthy inaugurates records management workshop

Sivanandamurthy said records are vital administrative and historical evidence, urging careful handling and scientific preservation by officials

CH NEWS ,MANDYA

Officials and office staff have been urged to make effective use of training workshops on record management and ensure proper preservation of original government documents, said Additional Deputy Commissioner B. C. Sivanandamurthy.

He was speaking after inaugurating a workshop on the Public Records Act and records management held at the Zilla Panchayat Kaveri Hall in Mandya. The programme was organised jointly by the District Deputy Commissioner's Office, Mandya, and the Karnataka State Archives and Gazetteer Department, Mysuru Divisional Archives Office.

He stressed that maintaining public records and preserving all official documents is a key responsibility of government officers. He also said that documents must be provided to the public in a timely manner while ensuring proper safekeeping of originals.

Sivanandamurthy said that records are not just papers but important evidence of administration and history. Therefore, every government employee must handle them with care and follow scientific methods of preservation.

He noted that with increasing digitisation, many records are being converted into digital format, but the protection of old physical records remains equally important. He said the workshop was organised to create awareness on this issue and urged officials and staff to actively participate and benefit from the training.

Karnataka State Archives and Gazetteer Department Director Dr. Gavisiddaya explained the technical challenges faced in record preservation and shared methods for maintaining old documents in the digital era. He also highlighted the objectives of the workshop and improvements expected in government offices.Deputy Director Manjunath H. L., Joint Director Dr. Nelkudri Sadanandappa, and several district and taluk-level officers including Tahsildars Vishwanath, Chetana Yadav, Lokesh, Ashok, and Purushottam Satti, along with Zilla Panchayat Planning Officer Dhanush, were present at the programme.

Residents said complaints were ignored, alleging political influence is delaying action by district administration against the accused

ALLEGATIONS OF LARGE-SCALE LAND GRAB IN CHIKKABALLAPURA

CH NEWS .CHIKKABALLAPURA

Serious allegations have been raised against retired Revenue Inspector and former Deputy Tahsildar H. Rajaratnam, with claims that he has illegally acquired over 60 acres of government and other lands worth crores of rupees in Nugitahalli village of Nandi hobli.

Social activist Sandesh, speaking to the media, alleged that during his service period Rajaratnam had taken control of multiple land survey numbers including 52/1, 53, 53/2, 54, 94/2, 95, 108, 130, 139, 141, 142 and 157. He further alleged that government lands classified as kharab and gomal lands were also included in the encroachment.

It is also alleged that portions of government land were transferred in the names of his family members and relatives, and that a farmhouse has been constructed on the disputed land.Villagers from Nugitahalli and nearby Tippanahalli have expressed concern that such large-scale occupation has deprived poor families of land and left no government space for future community needs such as burial grounds and public facilities.Residents claimed that despite repeated complaints submitted to the District Administration and concerned departments, no concrete action has been taken so far. They alleged that the accused has strong political influence, which is delaying action against him.The villagers also recalled that similar allegations of land grabbing were made against him in the past during his service, and were even reported in local newspapers at the time.Hundreds of villagers staged a protest demanding immediate investigation and strict legal action. They urged the authorities to protect government land and ensure justice for affected families.Officials have not yet issued an official response regarding the fresh allegations. Residents have appealed to the district administration to conduct a transparent inquiry and safeguard public property for future generations.

Dr. Nagasamudra issues heat safety guidelines

CH NEWS ,CHITRADURGA

The summer heat is rising across Karnataka and people are advised to take care. District AYUSH Officer Dr. Chandrakant S. Nagasamudra has urged citizens to follow precautions during hot weather. He said elderly people and children should avoid going out in strong sunlight. Exposure to heat can cause skin problems, fatigue, dizziness and dehydration symptoms. People are advised to use umbrellas, wear cotton clothes and carry water bottles. Officials recommend completing outdoor work early in the morning before temperatures rise. Citizens should drink clean water regularly and prefer natural drinks like fruit juice and sugarcane juice.

Free mass wedding brings joy to poor couples in Magadi

CH NEWS ,MAGADI

A free mass wedding festival was held with great celebration at Sri Lakshmi Pattaladamma Swamy Temple premises in Doddaiahnapalya of Magadi taluk. The event was organised under the leadership of former BBMP opposition leader A. H. Basavaraju. Three couples from below poverty line families entered married life during the ceremony.The organisers provided all essential items for the weddings, including mangalsutra and other basic materials, free of cost. A special community meal was also arranged for relatives and guests who attended the function, creating a festive atmosphere.Speaking at the event, A. H. Basavaraju said the mass wedding programme has been continuing in Doddaiahnapalya for several years. He said the initiative is purely a social service activity aimed at helping poor families and not linked to any political party, even though he is a BJP member. He said such simple weddings help families avoid debt and start their married life with financial stability.Former BJP taluk president Veerabhadraiah appreciated Basavaraju's social work and called him a role model. He said many people move to cities and forget their native villages, but Basavaraju continues to serve rural people through social initiatives. He also praised his efforts in education support, including free notebook distribution for students.Leaders present at the event said selfless service is the true form of social work. Families of the newlyweds expressed happiness and thanked the organisers for supporting them during an important life event. Several local leaders also attended the programme.

Farmers protest in Hunsur over power supply issues

HUNSUR

Farmers in Hunsur staged a protest in front of the city CESC office demanding uninterrupted electricity supply for agriculture. Around 35 farmers gathered under the leadership of the Karnataka State Farmers' Association taluk president Benkipura Chikkanna and general secretary Agrahara Ramegowda. They submitted a petition to Executive Engineer Mahesh Kumar.The protesters demanded at least seven hours of continuous three-phase electricity during the daytime for agricultural pump sets. They also urged the electricity department to repair burnt transformers within 72 hours and fix exposed wires and damaged electric poles without delay. Farmers said frequent power cuts and faulty infrastructure are affecting irrigation and crop production.They also demanded priority for solar power connections for agricultural pump sets. According to them, farmers who have already registered for solar schemes should be given time for payment, and new applicants should also be allowed to benefit from the scheme.The association opposed any move towards privatization of electricity supply, saying it would negatively affect farmers. They insisted that electricity services must remain under government control.Farmers further complained that fallen wires and weak poles are creating danger in rural areas and must be repaired immediately to avoid accidents. They warned that continued negligence could lead to stronger protests in the future.Officials received the petition and assured that the concerns would be forwarded to higher authorities for necessary action. The protest highlighted ongoing issues faced by farmers regarding power supply and infrastructure in the region.

Mandya Court awards life term in wife murder case

CH NEWS ,MANDYA

A Mandya court has sentenced a man to life imprisonment for the murder of his wife in a case driven by suspicion and domestic abuse. The accused, Ajwal Khan, aged 39, was originally from Ramanagara and later lived in Dhanaguru village of Malavalli taluk in Mandya district. He was married to Salma Begum in 2006, and the couple lived together for a few years before disputes began over suspicion of infidelity.

According to the case details, the accused repeatedly doubted his wife's character and subjected her to mental and physical harassment. The victim informed her family members, who advised her to continue the marriage. However, tensions continued and the accused allegedly planned the crime along with his son.

On May 8, 2023, while Salma Begum was alone at home, the accused and his son allegedly attacked her at their residence in Dhanaguru village. The prosecution said the son held the victim while the father strangled her and used a pillow to suffocate her, leading to her death. Halagur police filed charges under sections 498(A), 120(B), and 302 read with 34 of the Indian Penal Code.

After reviewing evidence, the Second Additional District and Sessions Court in Mandya found the accused guilty. Judge Sayedunnisa sentenced him to life imprisonment with fines for murder and criminal conspiracy, along with additional punishment for cruelty.

The court also ordered compensation for the victim's children. Public prosecutor Nagaraj K. represented the state during the trial.

Madiga community plans felicitation programme, Says H. Anjaneya

CHITRADURGA

Former Minister H. Anjaneya has said that a felicitation programme will soon be organised to express gratitude to national leader Rahul Gandhi, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, and other cabinet members for implementing internal reservation for the Madiga community.

Speaking at a press conference held at the Pravasi Mandir in Chitradurga on Thursday, he said that the Madiga community, which has been struggling for internal reservation for nearly three decades, has finally achieved a historic decision due to the Supreme Court judgment and the efforts of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

He said the community plans to hold a grand celebration in Raichur, Chitradurga, or Hospet, and that senior leader K.H. Muniyappa will take a final decision on the venue.

Anjaneya said internal reservation is a major step towards social justice, but pointed out that certain provisions—such as treating SC posts as general if fewer than three vacancies exist—need correction. He said a round-table meeting of thinkers, retired officers, and activists will be held in Bengaluru on May 3 to discuss these issues and suggest amendments.

He explained that Madigas have long faced educational and economic disadvantages and therefore struggled to compete within the broader Scheduled Caste category. He said internal reservation has now helped improve access to education and jobs, but minor issues in implementation must be addressed.

LAND ALLOCATION CONFLICT

Revenue village status sought by hamlets groups

CH NEWS ,HUNSUR

Tribal organisations in Hunsur taluk have renewed their demand for land rights and official recognition of several hamlets as revenue villages. The groups said they had earlier written to State Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda requesting declaration of 33 hamlets as revenue villages and issuance of final land records for agricultural land.

Leaders said around 450 families from 22 hamlets are seeking rights over nearly 1,200 acres of agricultural land out of a total of 2,600 families in the region. They also raised concerns over land disputes in Kadu Vaddaragadi Survey No. 33, where 117 acres of land earlier allotted to tribal families was allegedly cancelled for non-cultivation during the tenure of a former tahsildar and later transferred to others.

Tribal representatives said they had already brought the issue to the notice of the District Collector and also approached the court, after which the cultivation rights were cancelled. They claimed that families from Tekla Hadi and Madyayana Katte Hadi have been living on the land for generations and demanded restoration of cultivation certificates.

They also said six families in Neralakuppe B Hadi lost rights over 12 acres despite living there for about 46 years, and demanded reinstatement of their documents based on earlier records, including a 1987 possession report prepared by then District Collector V. P. Baligar.

Tribal leaders Harsha, Jayappa, Lakshmi Vitthal, Shivannakempamma and others said they have written to multiple officials including the Chief Secretary and District Collector seeking urgent action. They also urged similar action across all four taluks in the subdivision.

QUICK READ

Special trains, buses for Chitra Pournami festival

Chennai

Authorities in Tamil Nadu have announced special transport arrangements for the Chitra Pournami festival at Tiruvannamalai. Around 25 lakh devotees are expected to take part in the sacred girivalam walk. To handle the huge crowd, special trains and additional bus services will be operated. Officials said the steps aim to ensure safe and smooth travel for pilgrims coming from different places. Extra crowd control measures and coordination teams have also been planned. Devotees are advised to follow instructions and use public transport for easier movement during the festival days and avoid traffic congestion around temple.

Court protects Karisma's kids' estate rights case

New Delhi

The Delhi High Court has given interim relief to Karisma Kapoor's children, Samaira and Kiaan Kapur, in a family property case. It restrains Priya Kapur from selling or transferring key assets of the late industrialist Sunjay Kapur estate during the case. The dispute involves a will worth about Rs 30,000 crore, which the children claim is forged and unfair. Justice Jyoti Singh said the estate must be preserved until the final judgment. The court also barred Priya Kapur from withdrawing funds or altering company shares and crypto assets linked to the estate while allowing only essential expenses for children support.

YSRCP leader Srihari gets bail relief case

Amaravati

Pudi Srihari, YSRCP media general secretary, received bail from a Chittoor district court in Andhra Pradesh over an alleged abusive social media post against Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. He was arrested in Bengaluru and brought to Kuppam for production before the court. After hearing arguments, the judge granted him bail. His lawyer alleged mismatch in arrest timing and said the party trusts the judiciary. The case relates to earlier allegations of posting morphed images of the Chief Minister. Srihari, a former journalist, denied wrongdoing and said he always followed law and ethics in public life always said.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Radadiya Bharat Hareshbhai, aged about 19 years, residing at No. 54, Kailash Enclave Society, Opp. to the H.P. Gas Agency Adde, Rajanukunte, Yelahanka, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560 064 have changed my name from **RADADIYA BHARAT HARESHBHAI** to **RADADIYA BHARAT** (in Aadhar, PAN & Driving License, etc.) vide affidavit dated 30.04.2026 sworn in before Advocate and Notary S.R. Ravikumar Bengaluru - 560040. I will be called as **RADADIYA BHARAT** in future instead of RADADIYA BHARAT HARESHBHAI.

Vande Bharat links Jammu and Srinagar

The direct train will cut travel time by 5 hours between the two capitals of Jammu and Kashmir, significantly boosting tourism and passenger convenience

JAMMU

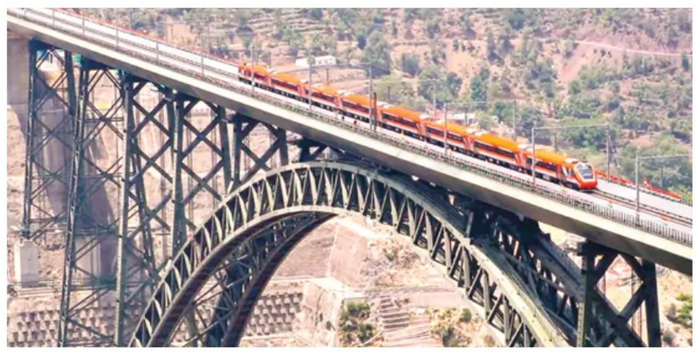
In a historic leap for Jammu and Kashmir's infrastructure, Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw officially flagged off the direct Vande Bharat Express between Jammu and Srinagar. This milestone marks the first time the two cities have been connected by a high-speed, all-weather rail link, fulfilling a project over seven decades in the making.

The service, was launched in the presence of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and Minister of State Jitendra Singh. The direct link effectively bypasses the vulnerabilities of the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, which is frequently shut down by landslides and heavy snow.

Built at a staggering cost of ₹43,780 crore, the rail line is widely regarded as one of the world's most challenging engineering feats. To conquer the rugged Himalayan terrain, engineers constructed 36 tunnels and over 900 bridges.

The route builds upon the Katra-Srinagar stretch inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2025. By extending the service to Jammu, the railway now provides a seamless corridor for students, traders, and farmers, ensuring that the movement of people and essential goods like Kashmir's famous apples, remains uninterrupted even in the harshest winter months.

Local officials believe the Vande Bharat service will act as a major catalyst for the regional economy. With travel times drastically reduced, tourism is expected to see a significant surge, offering travelers a scenic and luxury rail experience through the heart of the valley. For the people of J&K, the arrival of the "Blue and White" express signifies a new era of reliable, modern, and rapid connectivity.



Key details

- Capacity: 20-coach high-speed train.
- Distance: 267 kilometers.
- Schedule: 6 days a week (excluding Tuesdays).
- Safety & Comfort: Equipped with indigenous Kavach anti-collision system, GPS passenger info, and 180-degree rotating seats.

BAD HIGHWAY DESIGN AND SPEED CAUSING DEATHS

DHAR

A tragic road accident that claimed 16 lives in Madhya Pradesh was caused by more than just fast driving. A police investigation into the crash on the Indore-Ahmedabad National Highway has revealed shocking flaws in road design and a total lack of basic safety features. Authorities say these infrastructure failures turned a busy crossing into a death trap.

Investigators found that the road lacked mandatory warning signs to alert drivers of upcoming turns. There were no speed breakers or signals to slow down traffic. Most dangerously, the gaps in the highway dividers were poorly planned, allowing vehicles to cross blindly into oncoming traffic. At night, the danger increased because the road had no reflective markings or "cat-eye" indicators to guide drivers in the dark.

The disaster occurred when a pickup truck carrying 46 workers overturned and slammed into an SUV. While the police admit overspeeding played a major role, they insist the accident could have been avoided if the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) had followed safety protocols. The death toll rose to 16 today after three more victims died in the hospital.

Local police officials have documented every missing safety feature and are filing a formal complaint with highway authorities. They are demanding immediate changes to the medians and the installation of proper signage. This heartbreaking event serves as a grim reminder that high-speed roads require high-quality safety measures to protect the lives of those traveling on them.

New bus routes approved for 3 cities

GANDHINAGAR

Commuting in Gujarat is about to get much easier and cheaper for thousands of residents. The state government has officially approved 17 new urban bus routes across three growing cities.

This move, part of the Chief Minister's Urban Bus Service Scheme, aims to connect remote neighborhoods with city centers while helping families save money on daily travel.

The expansion targets Navsari, Vapi, and Palanpur. Navsari will see the biggest boost with seven new routes designed to link different parts of the city more effectively. Vapi, a major industrial hub, will receive four new routes. Officials believe these extra buses will provide much-needed relief to factory workers and employees who currently struggle with limited transport options or rely heavily on expensive private vehicles.

In Palanpur, the district headquarters of Banaskantha, six new routes have been sanctioned. These additions are expected to be a game-changer for students and villagers traveling into the city for education and essential services. Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi stated that the main goal is to make daily travel more convenient and time-efficient for the common citizen.

Beyond just saving money, the government hopes this initiative will fix two major urban headaches like traffic jams and pollution. By putting modern, safe buses on the road, authorities want to encourage people to leave their cars and scooters at home. This project is a key part of Gujarat's larger plan to modernize city infrastructure and ensure that even peripheral areas are not left behind.

India Post launches new zero balance accounts

NEW DELHI

In a major push to support rural women, India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) officially launched a new zero-balance savings account.

Designed specifically for Self-Help Groups (SHGs), this account allows these local organizations to hold up to ₹2 lakh without worrying about maintaining a minimum balance. The move aims to bring formal banking directly to the doorsteps of millions in rural India.

Self-Help Groups are the backbone of the rural economy, often led by women driving local businesses and government livelihood programs. By removing the stress of monthly fees and balance requirements, the IPPB is making it easier for these groups to manage their hard-earned money. R. Viswesvaran, the bank's CEO, stated that this initiative is a vital step toward making financial services inclusive and accessible at the grassroots level.

India Post Payments Bank launched zero-balance accounts for rural Self-Help Groups, allowing deposits up to ₹2 lakh to empower women entrepreneurs through inclusive, accessible banking

The benefits of the new account are tailored for simplicity. There are no charges for depositing or withdrawing cash, and the bank offers quarterly interest payments to help these groups grow their savings. Additionally, there are no fees for closing an account or receiving monthly statements. This transparency is key to building trust within rural communities that have historically stayed away from formal banks.

The true strength of this program lies in the massive reach of India's postal network. With over 1.65 lakh post offices and 3 lakh postal employees, banking services will now reach the most remote villages. By using digital tools and local postmen, the government is ensuring that every woman entrepreneur has a safe place to save and grow.

Amit Shah in Leh for Buddha relics

LEH

Union Home Minister Amit Shah arrived in Leh for a historic spiritual event. He is visiting the region to attend the first-ever international exposition of Lord Buddha's holy relics. Upon his arrival at the airport, he was given a warm ceremonial welcome by Ladakh Lieutenant Governor V.K. Saxena and senior local officials.

The Home Minister's two-day trip is timed perfectly with Buddha Purnima. The sacred Piprahwa relics, which arrived via a special Indian Air Force aircraft, are the center of this rare event. Thousands of devotees from around the world are expected to travel to Ladakh during the first two weeks of May to pay their respects to these ancient spiritual treasures.

Beyond the religious ceremonies, the visit also signals a push for local development. Mr. Shah is scheduled to lay the foundation stone for a new dairy plant in Kargil. This facility will be capable of processing 10,000 liters of milk daily, providing a significant boost to the region's farmers and economy.

In a social media post, the Home Minister described the opportunity to attend the exposition as a moment of "profound good fortune." The visit comes at a busy time for the Union Territory. Just before the Minister's arrival, the Lieutenant Governor announced the creation of five new districts for Ladakh. This administrative expansion, complete with new police and civil leaders, aims to bring the government closer to the people living in these remote and beautiful mountain areas.

India's used car market to hit billions

NEW DELHI

Buying a pre-owned vehicle is becoming the new favorite trend for Indian drivers. A fresh report reveals that India's used-car market is set to explode, reaching a massive $70 billion by 2031. This is a huge jump from the current $35 billion market seen this year, proving that more people are choosing "nearly new" over brand new.

Several factors are fueling this engine of growth. First, people are keeping their cars for much shorter times. Instead of waiting eight years to upgrade, many drivers in big cities now swap their vehicles every four to five years. This creates a steady supply of high-quality, relatively young cars for the next buyer. Additionally, rising incomes and easier bank loans are making it much simpler for families to drive home their first vehicle. Interestingly, the report finds that 65 percent of used-car buyers are purchasing a vehicle for the very first time. For these people, a pre-owned car isn't just a budget choice, it is a way to get a premium model with better features for a lower price.

Sardine boom boosts India's marine fisheries growth

KOCHI

India's marine fisheries sector showed steady recovery in 2025, with total fish catch rising by three per cent to 35.7 lakh tonnes, according to the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute.

The latest data points to improving fish stocks and better market returns, offering hope for the country's growing blue economy.

Tamil Nadu emerged as the top contributor with 6.85 lakh tonnes, moving ahead of Gujarat, where production dropped by 15 per cent due to bad weather and longer fishing bans. Kerala held the third position with 6.24 lakh tonnes, making up around 17 per cent of the total output.

Pelagic species, which live near the surface, dominated the catch with a 54 per cent share. Indian mackerel led landings, followed by cephalopods and a strong comeback by Indian oil sardines. Kerala saw a sharp 13 per cent rise in sardine catch, reaching its highest level in ten years. Growth in threadfin breams and cephalopods also supported the overall increase.

The sector's value also improved significantly. National earnings from marine fish reached Rs 69,254 crore, while retail value rose to Rs 97,702 crore. Kerala recorded strong growth in earnings, showing better pricing and market demand.

Experts say favourable weather and controlled fishing helped fish stocks recover. According to CMFRI Director Grinson George, these factors played a key role in the growth. The report highlights a positive trend where better ecology and strong demand are supporting the livelihoods of coastal communities across India.

EASTERN BRO'S BLUEPRINT

Strategic high-gear: BRO fast-tracks border roads

GUWAHATI

The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) launched a bold mission to fortify India's frontiers. In a dynamic two-day summit held in Guwahati, top engineering minds converged to blueprint a rapid expansion of roads and bridges across the strategic eastern sector.

Under the guidance of Jitendra Prasad, Additional Director General, seven Chief Engineers shifted their focus toward "smart construction." The plan isn't just about pouring concrete, it's about using cutting-edge technology to conquer the world's most unforgiving mountain terrains.

These roads serve as vital lifelines, ensuring that both local residents and soldiers remain connected to the heart of the country.

The atmosphere in the meeting was one of urgent determination. Leaders stressed that while speed is essential for national security, the structural integrity of these projects must be world-class. Reliable infrastructure ensures that security forces can mobilize instantly without the fear of delays caused by harsh weather or rugged landscapes. Since its humble beginnings in 1960, the BRO has evolved from two small projects into a massive infrastructure engine spanning eleven states and neighboring Bhutan. By blending military precision with engineering brilliance, this new roadmap promises a future where India's eastern borders are not just connected, but invincible.

Quick facts: The BRO evolution

Feature	Detail
Established	1960
Current Reach	11 States & Bhutan
Core Mission	Military-Grade Infrastructure
2026 Focus	Eastern Frontier Security

The strategic toadmap

- **Efficiency First:** Maximizing resources to reduce construction timelines.
- **Modern Methods:** Adopting advanced engineering for high-altitude durability.
- **Reliability:** Building bridges that stand the test of time and terrain.

Key takeaways

- **Faster Mobilization:** Reducing transit time for security forces.
- **Community Support:** Linking remote villages to essential services.
- **Economic Boost:** Creating jobs and local trade routes through better connectivity.

Nagaland drill tests readiness for major quake

Nagaland successfully conducted its 8th statewide disaster drill, simulating a massive earthquake to test emergency response and coordination systems

KOHIMA

Nagaland successfully completed its eighth statewide disaster drill, putting its emergency response systems to the ultimate test. Known as NEPEX 2026, the exercise simulated a massive earthquake to see how well government agencies and local communities could handle a sudden, high-impact catastrophe.

The drill began with a morning siren that sent the State Emergency Operation Centre into high alert. Officials focused on a "whole-of-government" approach, bringing together various departments, central agencies, and even civil society groups. Because earthquakes are unpredictable, the state used this scenario to evaluate how quickly communication flows and how effectively different teams coordinate under pressure.

This year's exercise was more detailed than ever. Major General Sudhir Bahl from the National Disaster Management Authority noted that they planned for specific impacts, such as hospital capacities, road-blocking landslides, and damage to airports or dams. While the overall performance was praised, experts identified a few areas for improvement, including the need for better satellite communication backups and faster repairs for critical lifelines like roads and power.

The most unique part of the day, titled "Operation Night Guard," is scheduled for this evening. Citizens in ten districts will participate in air raid and blackout simulations between 6:30 pm and 6:45 pm. Authorities have urged the public to stay calm and cooperate during these nighttime tests. By identifying gaps now, Nagaland aims to ensure that if a real disaster ever strikes, the state will be ready to save as many lives as possible.

New Summit maps future of inclusive medicine

NEW DELHI

Union Health Minister JP Nadda launched the 10th National Summit, highlighting Ayushman Arogya Mandirs and innovative strategies to make healthcare more affordable and accessible for all

Union Health Minister JP Nadda opened a major national summit aimed at making healthcare more affordable and modern for every Indian.

The 10th National Summit on Innovation and Inclusivity brought together leaders from across the country to share the best ideas for improving public health. The event highlights how local, practical solutions are currently transforming the nation's medical landscape.

During the summit, Minister Nadda praised India's shift toward a more complete health system. Under the current national policy, the focus has moved beyond just treating the sick to preventing illness before it starts. He highlighted the massive success of over 1.85 lakh Ayushman Arogya Mandirs. These local centers now serve as the first point of contact for 1.5 billion people, offering vital screenings for diseases like cancer and diabetes.

The numbers show a healthy trend. Institutional births have jumped to 89 percent, and the country has seen a massive 79 percent drop in deaths for children under five. Furthermore, India is winning the fight against major diseases like tuberculosis cases are falling faster than the global average, and malaria rates remain impressively low despite India's huge population.

The Minister emphasized that while money is available, the real challenge is using it wisely at the local level. He called for better coordination between officials to ensure that every rupee helps the people who need it most. By focusing on quality and innovation, India is taking a giant leap toward a future where high-quality healthcare is a reality for everyone.

Centre pushes organic, nutritious food supply for armed forces

NEW DELHI

The Central Government has stepped up efforts to ensure supply of organic and nutritious food to the country's armed forces, with a renewed focus on Bharat Brand food products, quality grains and premium basmati rice. Union Food and Civil Supplies Minister Pralhad Joshi on Thursday chaired a high-level meeting with senior Indian Army officials at Krishi Bhavan in New Delhi to review procurement and supply systems for food grains and ration materials meant for defence personnel.

During the meeting, the minister stressed the importance of providing quality and organic food grains to soldiers serving across the country. Detailed discussions were held on expanding the supply of Bharat Brand rice and wheat products to the armed forces and improving overall nutritional standards in ration supplies.

Joshi instructed officials to take necessary steps for procurement of high-quality basmati rice and other essential food commodities required by the armed forces. The discussions also focused on scaling up procurement through cooperative institutions and ensuring smooth and efficient supply chains.

Officials examined ways to strengthen distribution mechanisms so that nutritious food products reach defence establishments without disruption. The meeting also explored strategies to encourage sustainable and organic agricultural production while supporting Indian farmers.

Joshi reiterated that the Centre remains committed to both supporting the farming community and ensuring that armed forces personnel receive safe, nutritious and high-quality food products. The initiative is expected to improve food quality standards for defence personnel while also boosting demand for Bharat Brand and organic agricultural products in the country.

Army surgical camp brings sight to Ladakh

LEH

> The Indian Army's 'Operation Netra 1.0' successfully restored sight to hundreds through a high-tech surgical camp in remote Ladakh

The Indian Army has successfully finished a historic four-day medical mission in the high-altitude region of Leh, restoring sight to hundreds of residents.

Known as "Operation Netra 1.0," this advanced surgical eye camp provided elite medical care to people living in some of the most remote and rugged border areas on Earth.

Working at the very edge of the habitable world, a team of top military surgeons screened 950 patients from seven different districts. The team performed 214 complex procedures, including nearly 200 cataract surgeries. Most incredibly, 15 patients who were completely blind walked away with their vision fully restored. Many travelers came from extreme heights, such as Hanle and Chushul, journeying through thin air and freezing temperatures to reach the hospital.

The mission also debuted a new "Op Netra" mobile app. Developed by the Army, this digital tool used QR codes to track patient records and schedule surgeries with 100% accuracy. This high-tech approach ensured that patients from secluded villages like Bogdang and Spangmik received the same quality of care as those in India's biggest cities.

The closing ceremony was attended by Ladakh Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena, who praised the seamless partnership between the military and civil government. By airlifting heavy medical equipment into the mountains, the Indian Air Force and Army proved that no citizen is too remote to be helped. For people like Rigzin Wangyal, who lived in shadows for fifteen years, the camp offered a "new lease of light" and a future of independence.

Jamia students protest over VC's controversial remarks

NEW DELHI

A major controversy has erupted at Jamia Millia Islamia following comments made by Vice Chancellor Mazhar Asif. During an event organized by the RSS on campus, a video surfaced showing the Vice Chancellor stating that all Indians share a common "DNA of Mahadev," regardless of their religion or culture. These remarks have triggered a wave of anger among student groups, who are calling the statements unscientific and undemocratic. The All India Students' Association (AISA) and the Students' Federation of India (SFI) issued strong statements condemning the Vice Chancellor's words. They argue that linking Indian identity to a specific religious figure ignores the country's diverse heritage and constitutional values. Students also expressed concern that the university is being used as a platform for political agendas, which they claim undermines the academic independence of the institution.

The event, which marked 100 years of the RSS, was already facing heavy resistance. Scores of students gathered to protest the program, leading to a tense standoff with campus security and police. Some student leaders alleged that the administration used force to disperse peaceful protesters, claims that the university has denied. The administration defended the event, stating it was an academic discussion about Indian traditions and youth.

This incident has reignited a fierce debate about the role of ideology in education. While the university insists it remains open to all ideas, protesting students demand that the Vice Chancellor be held accountable. They believe that such comments from a top educator set a regressive tone for the future of Indian universities.

Plastic factory fire injures owner in Raipur

RAIPUR

A massive fire tore through a plastic factory in the Saddu area of Raipur, leaving the facility's owner injured. The blaze broke out suddenly, quickly spreading through the building and causing a series of small explosions as paint cans stored inside ignited. While the fire caused significant damage to the property, emergency teams acted fast to prevent a larger disaster. The factory owner suffered burns to his hands while bravely attempting to douse the flames before help arrived. Fortunately, no other employees were trapped inside, as the building was successfully evacuated within minutes. Four fire engines and a large water tanker were rushed to the scene to battle the smoke and heat. Firefighters reported that the most dangerous part of the operation involved stopping the paint can blasts, which they managed to control after about an hour of intense work. Local officials confirmed that the fire is now mostly contained, though cooling operations are ongoing to ensure no hidden sparks reignite the plastic materials.

Government of Karnataka
Panchayath Raj Engineering Department
Office of the Executive Engineer, Hassan Division Hassan.
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION NO -05/2026-27
Dated : 29.04.2026

The tender are invited by the Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division Hassan on be-half of the Governor of Karnataka through KPPP portal for the following works are sanctioned under the head of account of 2025-26TH CMIDP Grant The work details are available in the www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal. ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ.ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 01.INDENT NO:RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT25298/Call-2 ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ Rs.208.38 lakhs 02.INDENT NO:RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT25288/Call-2 ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ Rs.200.95 lakhs 03.INDENT NO:RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT25292/Call-2 ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ Rs.207.04 lakhs 04.INDENT NO:RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT25296/Call-2 ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ Rs.191.83 lakhs 05.INDENT NO:RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT 25163/Call-2 ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ Rs.146.82 lakhs 06.INDENT NO:RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT23989/Call-2 ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ Rs.120.49 lakhs THE IMPORTANT DATES ARE AS FOLLOWS Bid Submission Start Date 02.05.2026 16.00 hours Last Date & Time for Tender Queries/Clarifications 08.05.2026 16.00 hours Last Date & Time for receipt of tenders 11.05.2026 16.00 hours Date & Time for Opening of Technical Bid 12.05.2026 16.05 hours Date & Time for Opening of Financial Bid After approval of Technical bid

sd/- Executive Engineer,
P.R.E.Division, Hassan.
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಹಿಸನ/ಹಾಸನ/82/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಪಿಎ/2026–27

BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION, ZONE-1
Office of the Executive Engineer, Kengeri Division, R.R. Nagara Zone, BBMP Office Building, CA No-3, 1st Main Road, Outer Ring Road, Kommaghatta Road, Kengeri Upanagar, Bengaluru - 560 060
No:BWCC/EE/KEN/TEND/01/2026-27 **Date:30.04.2026**

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(Short Term Tender Notification) (Single Cover System) (Call-1)
(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)

The Executive Engineer, Kengeri Division, BWCC Zone-1 invites tenders on behalf of the Commissioner, BWCC, Zone-1, Bengaluru from eligible Tenderers for the Construction of works detailed in the table below.

Sl No.	Name of the works
1.	Establishment of Monsoon Temporary Control Room at Ward No:11, 12 & 13 Limits of Doddabidarakallu Sub-Division for the Year 2026-27. **Estimate Amount: Rs.7.50 Lakhs, EMD: Rs.18,750/-**
2.	Establishment of Monsoon Temporary Control Room at Ward No:14, 15, 16 & 17 Limits of Herohalli Sub-Division for the Year 2026-27. **Estimate Amount: Rs.10.00 Lakhs, EMD: Rs.25,000/-**
3.	Establishment of Monsoon Temporary Control Room at Ward No:18, 19, 20 & 21 Limits of Kengeri Sub-Division for the Year 2026-27. **Estimate Amount: Rs.10.00 Lakhs, EMD: Rs.25,000/-**

Calendar of Events : (1) Tender documents may be downloaded through e-portal from **02.05.2026, 4:00** pm. (2) Last date & Time for Receipt of Tenders on **11.05.2026** upto **4:00** pm. (3) Opening of Bids on **12.05.2026** at **4:30** pm.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Kengeri Division, BWCC Zone-1

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕೆ.ಆರ್. ವೃತ್ತ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.
ಸಂ: ಕಾ.ಇಂ(ವಿ)/ಲೋ.ಇ/ವಿದ್ಯುತ್/2025–26/147 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 29.04.2026

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ವಿದ್ಯುತ್), ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಇವರ ವತಿಯಿಂದ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ KW-1 STD ಷರತ್ತುಗೊಳಪಟ್ಟಂತೆ, ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಮೂಲಕ ಎರಡನೇ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿದೆ.

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ.	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು	ಟೆಂಡರಿಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)
1	Providing Diesel Generator Set to District Prison, Mangaluru, D.K. District. PWD/2026-27/EL/WORK_INDENT35406	Rs. 11.88
2	Supplying and Installing, Erection and Commissioning of new Diesel Generator Set 58.5 KVA with AMF Panel to PWD Division Office, Udupi, Udupi District. PWD/2026-27/EL/WORK_INDENT35405 (Reserved for Cat-1)	Rs. 9.97

ಮೇಲಿನ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಇಚ್ಛಿಸುವವರು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 29.05.2026 ರಿಂದ 13.05.2026, 16.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ** ಹಾಗೂ ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಹಿಂತಿರುಗಿಸುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 13.05.2026 ರಂದೆ 16.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ** ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು(ವಿ).
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಉನಿ-ಪಿ.ಪಿ/437/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಪಿಎ/2026–27

ನಗರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ–562123
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂ.: **080–27222135 e-mail:** ka.nelmangala.cmc@gmai.com
ಸಂ.: ನಸನೆ/ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ(ವಿ)/ಟೆಂಡರ್/15/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 24.04.2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ)
(ಸ್ಟಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ KW 1&2 ರ & KG ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳಂತೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ)

ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು, ನಗರಸಭೆ ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಇವರಿಂದ 2026–27ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ನಗರಸಭೆ ನಿಧಿಯಡಿ ವಿವಿಧ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು ಒಟ್ಟು ಮೊತ್ತ **ರೂ: 149.89 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳ** ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನ ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನ ಏಕ ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಡಿ ಅರ್ಹ ದರ್ಜಿಯ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮುಂತಾದ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಹಾಗೂ ನಗರಸಭೆಯ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಶಾಖೆಯನ್ನು ಸಂರ್ಪಕಿಸುವುದು.

ವಿವರಗಳು ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿದೆ:

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ.	ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)
1	DMA/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT57598	49.95
2	DMA/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT57578	49.99
3	DMA/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT57597	49.95

ಸಹಿ/– **ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು** ನಗರಸಭೆ, ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ
DIPR/CP/449/SA/2026-27
ಸಹಿ/– **ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು** ನಗರಸಭೆ, ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ

CH CLASSIFIEDS
To place a classified ad contact: **080-41209042**

ಪುರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ ಚಂದಾಪುರ
ಆನೇಕಲ್ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ–560081
ಫೋನ್: **080–27832411,** E-Mail: ka.chandapura.tmc@gmail.com
ಸಂ:ಚಂ.ಪು.ಕಾ/ತಾ.ಶಾ/ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ/ಟೆಂ/03/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ:29.04.2026

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ 1999 ಮತ್ತು ನಿಯಮಗಳನ್ವಯ 2000ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್ ನಿಯಮಗಳನ್ವಯ, ಪುರಸಭಾ ನಿಧಿಯಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪುರಸಭೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬೀದಿ ದೀಪ ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಸೇವೆ(ಸರ್ವಿಸ್) ಗಳನ್ನು ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಲು ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ದರ್ಜೆ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಲು ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಇಲಾಖಾ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆದು ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. (As Per Government order No.FD 4 PCL 2008, Bangalore, dated:14.10.2008 and Government Order No. FD 876 Exp-12/2017, Bangalore, dated: 10/10/2027 and A&B Value Considered Upto 2024-25)

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ.	ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)
1	DMA/2026-27/SE7779	**25.00**
2	DMA/2026-27/SE7780	**25.00**

ವೇಳಾಪಟ್ಟಿ: 1) ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ದರಗಳನ್ನು ನಮೂದಿಸಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ:14.05.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5:00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ. 2)** ಸ್ವೀಕೃತವಾದ ಟೆಂಡನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ:15.05.2026 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 5:30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. 3)** ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಪುರಸಭೆಯ ಕಿರಿಯ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರಿಂದ ಅಥವಾ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:080–27832411 ರಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಮುಖ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿ
ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಚಂದಾಪುರ
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಾಪ್ರ/ಜೆಎ/430/2026–27

Government of Karnataka - Water Resources Department
Bhadra Command Area Development Authority
Engineering Division, Malavagoppa,
Nidhige Post Office, Shivamogga – 577222
No.: BCS/E.Div./T.Section/Re Tender/26-27/41 D: 27.04.2026
Short-Term Re Tender Notice CALL-3 (IFT – 03/2026-27)

Head of Account: 2705-115

On behalf of the Hon'ble Administrative Officer, Bhadra CADA, Shivamogga, the Executive Engineer, Engineering Division, Bhadra Command Area Development Authority, Malavagoppa, Shivamogga invites detailed competitive Short-Term Re Tenders in two cover system through KPP Portal as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act – 1999, Rules – 2000 and Regulations 2017 for appointing required personnel on temporary basis through Human Resource Firms for certain posts that are vacant at the offices of Administrative Officer, Bhadra CADA, Shivamogga, Executive Engineer, Engineering Division, Bhadra CADA, Shivamogga and Assistant Executive Engineer, Engineering Sub Division, Bhadra CADA, Shivamogga/Siddapura and Agriculture and Co-operation Sub Division Bhadra CADA, Shivamogga, and Chairman's Personal Section Offices for the year 2026-27 (From 01.04.2026 to 31.03.2027).

Details are as below

1. Date for accessing Tender in KPP Portal: From 27.04.2026 to 07.05.2026. **2.** Last date for submission of filled Bids: 07.05.2026 up to 4.30 PM. **3**. Date of opening Technical Bid (two cover system): 08.05.2026 at 5.00 PM. **4.** Date of opening Financial Bid: 11.05.2026 after 11.30 AM.

Further information can be obtained from the office of Engineering Division, Bhadra CADA, Shivamogga during office hours or through website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Engineering Division,
Bhadra CADA, Shivamogga
DIPR/smg/ksmca/26-27/139/04/153

QUICK READ

Nepal Airlines apologises over incorrect J&K map

Kathmandu

Nepal Airlines has issued an apology after a "network map" shared on its social media showed Jammu and Kashmir as part of Pakistan, triggering widespread backlash. The airline removed the post shortly after criticism emerged. In a statement, it acknowledged "significant cartographic inaccuracies" that did not reflect its official stance or that of Nepal. It said an internal review is underway to ensure better accuracy in future communications. Emphasising regional ties, the airline expressed regret for any offence caused and reaffirmed its commitment to maintaining strong relations with neighbouring countries.

Taiwan detects Chinese aircraft, naval activity near waters

Taiwan reported fresh Chinese military activity near its waters, tracking aircraft sorties and naval vessels in surrounding zones

TAIPEI

Taiwan's Ministry of National Defense reported detecting renewed Chinese military activity near its territorial waters, including aircraft sorties and naval vessels operating in the surrounding region.

The developments were recorded as part of ongoing monitoring of movements by the People's Liberation Army.

According to the ministry, two sorties of Chinese military aircraft were identified entering Taiwan's southwestern Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ). In addition, five naval vessels and two official ships were observed operating in nearby waters. Taiwanese defense forces tracked the movements closely and deployed surveillance systems to maintain situational awareness.

Officials said the activity underscores continued pressure from the People's Republic of China, which has regularly conducted similar operations around the island. Taiwan views these actions as part of "grey-zone" tactics aimed at testing its defensive readiness without escalating into direct conflict. The ministry emphasized that it remains vigilant and responds appropriately to all detected incursions. Air and naval units are kept on standby to ensure rapid reaction capability in case of escalation.

Such encounters have become increasingly frequent in recent years, with Chinese aircraft and ships often operating near or crossing sensitive zones around Taiwan. These actions have contributed to heightened regional tensions and ongoing security concerns in the Taiwan Strait.

Taiwan continues to assert its sovereignty and rejects Beijing's claims over the island. Meanwhile, China maintains that its operations are routine and fall within its territorial rights.

The latest incident adds to a continuing pattern of military activity that underscores the fragile security balance in the region and the importance both sides place on strategic deterrence and surveillance readiness.

Mamdani urges King Charles to return Koh-i-Noor

Zohran Mamdani urged King Charles III to return the Koh-i-Noor Diamond, reviving debate over colonial-era artefact restitution during his New York visit

NEW YORK

Zohran Mamdani has said he would encourage the King Charles III to return the Koh-i-Noor Diamond during the monarch's visit to New York, reigniting discussion around one of the world's most debated historical artefacts.

The Koh-i-Noor, a 105-carat diamond originally mined in India, has long been at the centre of international controversy due to its transfer during the British colonial period. India has repeatedly called for its return, arguing that it was taken under unequal historical circumstances and should be repatriated as part of broader restitution efforts.

Mamdani's remarks add a contemporary political voice to a longstanding diplomatic issue. He suggested that high-profile visits, such as those by members of the British royal family, present opportunities to address unresolved historical grievances and cultural claims.

The diamond is currently part of the British Crown Jewels and is traditionally associated with royal regalia used by the monarchy. The question of ownership, however, remains sensitive, with the British Royal Household maintaining its position on the jewel's status, while India and other stakeholders continue to raise restitution claims.

Debates over the Koh-i-Noor are part of a wider global conversation about the return of cultural artefacts taken during colonial rule. Museums and governments around the world have faced increasing pressure to reassess historical acquisitions and consider repatriation.

Mamdani's statement has therefore been seen as part of a broader political and cultural discourse, reflecting ongoing tensions between historical legacy, national identity, and modern diplomatic relations.

OPEC+ TO RAISE OIL OUTPUT WITHOUT UAE

LONDON

The OPEC+ is likely to agree on another increase in oil production, even as the United Arab Emirates may not be part of the decision, according to sources. The move indicates that the alliance is continuing its current strategy despite internal disagreements among member nations.

OPEC+, which brings together the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and partners including Russia, has been managing oil output to stabilise global markets. The expected production hike reflects confidence that demand conditions can support additional supply without significantly disrupting prices.

Sources familiar with the discussions said the decision underscores a "business as usual" approach within the alliance. It suggests that key producers are prioritising market stability and continuity over resolving all internal disputes before taking action. This marks a shift from earlier periods when consensus among all members was considered essential.

The UAE's likely absence highlights ongoing tensions over production quotas. The country has previously pushed for higher baseline levels to reflect its increased capacity, leading to disagreements with other members. Despite this, the broader group appears willing to proceed without full alignment.

OPEC+ is expected to boost output despite United Arab Emirates absence, signaling steady market strategy amid tensions

Analysts say the move could influence global oil prices, depending on how markets respond to the added supply. A higher output level may ease price pressures if demand growth slows, but could also intensify competition among producers. The final agreement, once confirmed, will be closely monitored by energy markets worldwide.

Bus falls into Seine near Paris, all rescued

PARIS

A bus carrying passengers fell into the Seine River near Paris, prompting a rapid emergency response from local authorities.

Officials confirmed that all four people on board were rescued and are safe.

The incident took place in Juvisy-sur-Orge, when the bus reportedly left the road and ended up in the river. Those inside included the driver, her trainer, and two passengers, according to transport authorities.

Emergency services, including firefighters and rescue teams, were quickly deployed to the scene. They managed to extract all occupants from the vehicle without reported fatalities or serious injuries. The swift response was credited with preventing a potentially more serious outcome.

After the rescue, the bus remained partially submerged and was seen floating close to the riverbank later in the day as recovery operations continued. Authorities worked to secure the area and prevent further risk to nearby traffic and river activity.

The regional transport authority for Île-de-France said an investigation has been launched to determine how the incident occurred. Officials are examining possible causes, including mechanical failure, human error, or road and environmental conditions at the time of the accident.

Journalists face growing threats censorship, legal pressure

PARIS

Press freedom has fallen to its lowest level in 25 years, according to the latest report from Reporters Without Borders. The organisation warns that more than half of the world's countries are now classified in the "difficult" or "very serious" categories, marking a historic decline in global media freedom. The report highlights growing political pressure, legal restrictions, and violence against journalists across multiple regions. It cites the United States, under Donald Trump, as an example of increasing hostility toward the press, including what RSF describes as systematic attacks on journalists and restrictions affecting media operations.

RSF also points to deteriorating conditions in several other countries. In Russia, the watchdog says authorities have used laws related to extremism and national security to detain journalists, with dozens reportedly imprisoned as of April 2026. In parts of Africa, including Niger, the situation has worsened sharply due to political instability and armed conflict. The report notes that the share of the global population living in countries with "good" press freedom has dropped dramatically to less than one percent, with only a small group of Northern European countries maintaining high standards.

RSF says the decline reflects a broader global trend of weakening democratic safeguards and increasing control over information.

Von der Leyen discusses rule of law conditions

BUDAPEST

Hungary's incoming leader Péter Magyar said talks with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen were "successful" in efforts to unlock billions in frozen EU funds. The money had been withheld over rule-of-law concerns under the previous government. Both sides described the discussions as constructive, focusing on reforms needed to restore funding, including improvements in transparency and judicial independence. Magyar signalled willingness to meet EU conditions, with a potential agreement in the coming weeks. The issue is urgent as some recovery funds face strict deadlines.

Government of Kranataka
Office Of Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Division, Chitradurga.
phone No: 08194-200329 Email:eerdwsd.chd@gmail.com
No:RDWS&SD/CTA/TS/TENDER/2026-27/40 Date: 23/4/2026

Tender Notification

On behalf of the Honarable Governor of Karnataka as per the provisions of the Standard Tender Document, tender is invited for the Empanelement of Third Party Inspection Agency (TPIA) for the inspection of Jal Jeevan Mission(Invillage Works) and other works under RDWS&SD, Chitradurga in two-Cover System through KPPP portal from eligible Firms/Agencies registered under the Companies Act. Estimate Cost:Rs.169.50 Lakhs, Pre-bid Meeting Date:23.04.2026, Last date for Tender Submission:02.05.2026, Technical bid opening Date:04.05.2026, Financial bid opening Date:06.05.2026. For more information contact Executive Engineer's office during working hours.

DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/ 76/2026-27
Sd/- Executive Engineer RDWS&S Division, Chitradurga

Government of Karnataka
BENGALURU URBAN ZILLA PANCHAYAT
O/o Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, First Floor, Zilla Panchayat Buidling S. Kariyappa Road, Banashankari (Near Banashankari Temple) Bangalore-560070.
No.EE/PRED/BEG(U)/TND/JE-1/04/2026-27 Dated: 30.04.2026
KPPP Tender Notice TWO COVER SYSTEM

Tenders are invited through KPPP Portal by the Executive Engineer, P.R.E.D. Bangalore Urban, For 5054 Grants Works. **(RDPR/2026 27/RD/WORK_INDENT25918 \& RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT23971)** The work details can obtained from the KPPP Web Site The Tender Documents can be obtained and submitted on or before **Dated:14.05.2026 upto 4.00 pm.** Further details can be obtained from web site at**http://www.KPPP.karnataka.gov.in** or contact this office during office working hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Panchayatha Raj Engineering Division, Bengaluru Urban Dist, Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/Shirdi Sai/444/2026-27

CH CLASSIFIEDS
To place a classified ad contact: **080-41209042**

CITY CORPORTAION VIJAYAPURA
No: CCV/HO/SWM/T.N/2025-26 Date: 30.04.2026
KPP PORTAL SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

Executive Engineer, City Corporation, Vijayapura invites tenders from eligible bidders **(1) 05 works under corporation general fund 2025-26, (2) 01 work under 15th Finance 2025-26 tenders are called and (3) 05 works under Non-Million Plus Cities fund rate quotation** called through E-procurement portal. For further details visit online website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Note: (1) Tender Corrigendum and Addendum will be issued in **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal.** (2) Last date for tender: **07.05.2026.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Vijayapura City Corporation, Vijayapura.
DIPR/Vijayapura/R.O.No.71/KSMCA/2026-27

Government of Karnataka
Public Works Department
Office of the Executive Engineer, Mysuru Division, Mysuru.
E-mail: eepwdmys21@gmail.com
Phone No. & Fax No. 0821-242081
IFT No. 03/2026-27/CALL-2 Dt.27.04.2026
ITEM WISE SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, Executive Engineer, Public Works Department has published item wise Tender notification for a work approved under H/A: 5054-80-190-0-01-132- KRDCL-Capital Expenditure 01 works & 4059-80-051-0-60-423 CMIDP TSP 01 works under this division with KW- 3 & 4 Conditions & Regulations with Two cover systems. The **Minimum Amount Put to Tender is Rs.59.98 Lakhs and EMD amount is Rs.1.20 Lakhs.** The **Maximum Amount Put to Tender is Rs.120.56 Lakhs and EMD amount is Rs.2.00 Lakhs.** Pre bid Meeting will be held in the under signed office at 11.00 A.M on 30.04.2026 **(For Sl no.1).** Tenders shall be Submitted in KPP-Portal **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) from 27.04.2026 to 05.05.2026 within 17.00 PM.** KPWD Class-III & Above Contractor Registered in KPP-Portal are eligible.
More details can be obtained from the office of the under Signed during office hours. Any amendments or modifications in tender notification will be published in KPP-Portal Only.

Sd/-Executive Engineer, Public Work Department Mysuru Division, Mysuru
DIPR/DD/MYS/115/KSMCA/104/2026-27

Canada to host new defence funding bank for allies

LONDON

Canada has announced that it will host a proposed multilateral institution called the Defence, Security and Resilience Bank, aimed at helping allied nations fund military and security-related projects amid rising global geopolitical tensions.

According to Canada's finance ministry, discussions on the creation of the bank have been ongoing in Montreal with a group of partner countries, although the participating nations have not yet been publicly identified. The institution is expected to focus on providing affordable financing for defence modernisation and resilience projects, particularly for countries facing higher borrowing costs.

The proposed bank is designed to be a high-credit-rated financial body capable of raising significant capital—reportedly up to 100 billion pounds (about 135 billion dollars). It is intended to support investment in defence infrastructure, equipment procurement, and security-related technological development.

The idea for the institution was developed with input from former NATO security advisers, senior military officials, and financial experts. Supporters say it would help close funding gaps for countries that struggle to access low-cost capital markets for defence spending.

CHINA-PAK SUBMARINES

Paki Navy to add advanced Chinese submarines fleet

ISLAMABAD

The Pakistan Navy is set to strengthen its fleet with the addition of advanced submarines from China, according to reports. The move is part of an ongoing defence cooperation between the two countries aimed at modernising Pakistan's maritime capabilities.

Officials in Islamabad said the new submarines are expected to significantly enhance underwater combat and surveillance capabilities in the Arabian Sea. The platforms are believed to feature improved stealth technology, extended operational range, and advanced weapons systems designed for both deterrence and tactical operations.

The acquisition reflects deepening strategic ties between Pakistan and China, particularly in the defence sector. Over the past decade, China has emerged as one of Pakistan's key military suppliers, providing naval vessels, fighter aircraft, and air defence systems.

The development comes amid heightened regional security concerns and ongoing modernisation efforts within the Pakistan Armed Forces. Analysts note that expanding submarine capability is a priority for Pakistan as it seeks to maintain a balance of power in the Indian Ocean region.The announcement also follows Islamabad's broader efforts to diversify and upgrade its naval assets, including frigates and coastal defence systems. The new submarines are expected to complement existing platforms and improve Pakistan's ability to conduct long-range patrols and intelligence gathering.

While details of the exact number and specifications remain limited, defence observers say the deal underscores China's growing role as a major defence partner in South Asia and highlights shifting naval dynamics in the region.

Andy Flower: RCB have all-weather bowling attack

AHMEDABAD

Royal Challengers Bengaluru head coach Andy Flower has hailed his side's bowling unit as an "all-weather attack", saying the team is capable of adapting to any pitch conditions.

RCB's bowling strength was on full display in their previous outing against Delhi Capitals, where the Bengaluru side reduced the opposition to a shocking eight for six within just 3.5 overs. Veteran pacers Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Josh Hazlewood led the carnage with a sensational new-ball spell that virtually sealed the contest inside the PowerPlay.

Flower said RCB's ability to strike early has become one of the team's biggest strengths.

"We've been very good at taking PowerPlay wickets, and we did that well last season too," Flower said. "Against Delhi Capitals, everything came together so quickly and efficiently that the game was over in the blink of an eye. It was wonderful to watch Bhuvi and Hazlewood bowl like that."

The former Zimbabwe captain also expressed confidence in his bowling resources regardless of surface conditions. Ahmedabad is expected to offer a batting-friendly wicket, but Flower insisted RCB are prepared for every scenario.

"We're playing on a 75 per cent red-soil pitch, the same one used for last year's final. But we're comfortable with whatever conditions are put in front of us," he noted.

Despite RCB enjoying an impressive campaign with six wins from eight matches, Flower said it was important for the squad to remain grounded and focus only on the next challenge.

"It's really important philosophically not to hold on to past performances. T20 cricket is unpredictable, and you have to embrace that uncertainty," he added.

Gujarat Titans assistant coach Parthiv Patel also backed his side's bowling depth, highlighting options such as Rashid Khan, Washington Sundar and Manav Suthar alongside a strong pace attack featuring Mohammed Siraj and Kagiso Rabada. The high-profile encounter is expected to be a key battle between two well-balanced bowling attacks in IPL 2026.

Flower praises Bengaluru bowlers after destructive PowerPlay spell dismantled DCcompletely recently

Riyan Parag fined for vaping during IPL match against Punjab Kings

BENGALURU

Royals captain penalised after television cameras caught vaping inside dressing room during match

Rajasthan Royals captain Riyan Parag has been fined 25 per cent of his match fees and handed one demerit point for vaping inside the dressing room during an IPL 2026 match against Punjab Kings in Mullanpur.

The incident occurred during Rajasthan Royals' successful chase against Punjab Kings on Tuesday night, when Parag was seen on the live television broadcast inhaling from an e-cigarette. The visuals quickly went viral on social media and sparked widespread criticism from cricket fans and viewers.

According to IPL officials, on-field umpires Tanmay Srivastava and Nitin Menon initially did not report the incident to match referee Amit Sharma immediately after the game. However, after reviewing the broadcast footage, the matter was formally reported and Parag was found guilty of breaching the IPL Code of Conduct.

The offence was treated as a Level 1 breach under Article 2.21 of the IPL Code of Conduct, which deals with actions that bring the game into disrepute. Under the regulations, a Level 1 offence carries a penalty of 25 per cent deduction from match fees along with one demerit point. Since it was categorised as a minor breach, no formal hearing was required.

The IPL Code states that public acts of misconduct, unruly behaviour and inappropriate actions detrimental to the image of the game can fall under Article 2.21. Officials reportedly viewed the incident as careless behaviour, especially considering the influence of television broadcasts and social media visibility.

The controversy has also reignited discussion around India's ban on e-cigarettes. The Union government prohibited the production, sale and distribution of e-cigarettes in 2019. Violations under the law can attract imprisonment of up to one year and fines up to Rs 1 lakh for first-time offenders.

This is the second controversy involving Rajasthan Royals this season. Earlier, team manager Romi Bhinder was fined Rs 1 lakh for violating PMOA protocol after allegedly using a mobile phone in the dugout during a match. Rajasthan Royals will next face Delhi Capitals at home on Friday night.

Referee under scanner after Riyan Parag vaping controversy

The BCCI may reportedly take action against the match referee following the controversy involving Rajasthan Royals captain Riyan Parag vaping inside the dressing room during the IPL clash against Punjab Kings in Mullanpur. According to BCCI sources, there is no direct provision in the current rule book to penalise a player specifically for smoking or vaping during a match. However, officials are examining how a banned e-cigarette entered the dressing room without detection.

Mumbai Indians now face must-win situation after crushing defeat against Hyderabad franchise recently

Mumbai Indians' playoff hopes suffer major blow after defeat to Sunrisers Hyderabad

MUMBAI

Mumbai Indians suffered a massive setback in their IPL 2026 playoff campaign after a crushing six-wicket defeat against Sunrisers Hyderabad at the Wankhede Stadium.

Despite posting a commanding total of 243 for five, Mumbai Indians failed to defend the score as Sunrisers Hyderabad chased down the target comfortably in just 18.4 overs. The defeat has left MI in a difficult position in the points table, with the five-time champions currently languishing in ninth place with only four points from eight matches.

The highlight for Mumbai was a sensational century from Ryan Rickelton, whose aggressive knock powered the hosts to a formidable total. However, Hyderabad's explosive batting lineup once again delivered under pressure.

Openers and middle-order batters led the charge for SRH, with Travis Head and Heinrich Klaasen smashing quick-fire half-centuries to seal the victory. The win also marked Sunrisers Hyderabad's fifth consecutive triumph in the tournament, strengthening their position in the playoff race.

Mumbai Indians now face an uphill task to qualify for the playoffs. With six league matches remaining, MI must win all their remaining games to reach 16 points, a tally generally considered enough for qualification in most IPL seasons.

A single additional defeat could leave Mumbai depending heavily on other teams' results and Net Run Rate calculations. More than one loss would almost certainly end their playoff hopes.

Mumbai's remaining fixtures include several challenging contests against strong opponents. They will next face arch-rivals Chennai Super Kings on May 2 in Chennai, followed by matches against Lucknow Super Giants, Royal Challengers Bengaluru, Punjab Kings, Kolkata Knight Riders and Rajasthan Royals. With pressure mounting and little room for error, Mumbai Indians must now produce a near-perfect finish to keep their IPL 2026 campaign alive.

IPL 2026

Gujarat Titans beat Royal Challengers Bengaluru by 4 wickets at Narendra Modi stadium in Ahmedabad on Thursday.

Julian Alvarez becomes fastest Argentine to reach 25 Champions League goals

MADRID

Julian Alvarez etched his name into UEFA Champions League history after becoming the fastest Argentine player to score 25 goals in the competition, surpassing legendary forward Lionel Messi.

The Atletico Madrid striker achieved the milestone during his side's 1-1 draw against Arsenal F.C. in the first leg of their UEFA Champions League semifinal in Madrid.

Alvarez calmly converted a second-half penalty to keep Atletico Madrid's hopes of winning a fourth Champions League title alive. With the goal, the Argentine forward reached 25 goals in just 41 Champions League appearances, overtaking Messi, who needed 42 matches to achieve the same landmark. Former Manchester City striker Sergio Agüero sits third among Argentines, having reached the milestone in 48 games.

Despite the impressive achievement, Alvarez still trails the competition's all-time leading scorers. Cristiano Ronaldo tops the Champions League scoring charts with 141 goals, followed by Messi with 129 and Robert Lewandowski with 109.

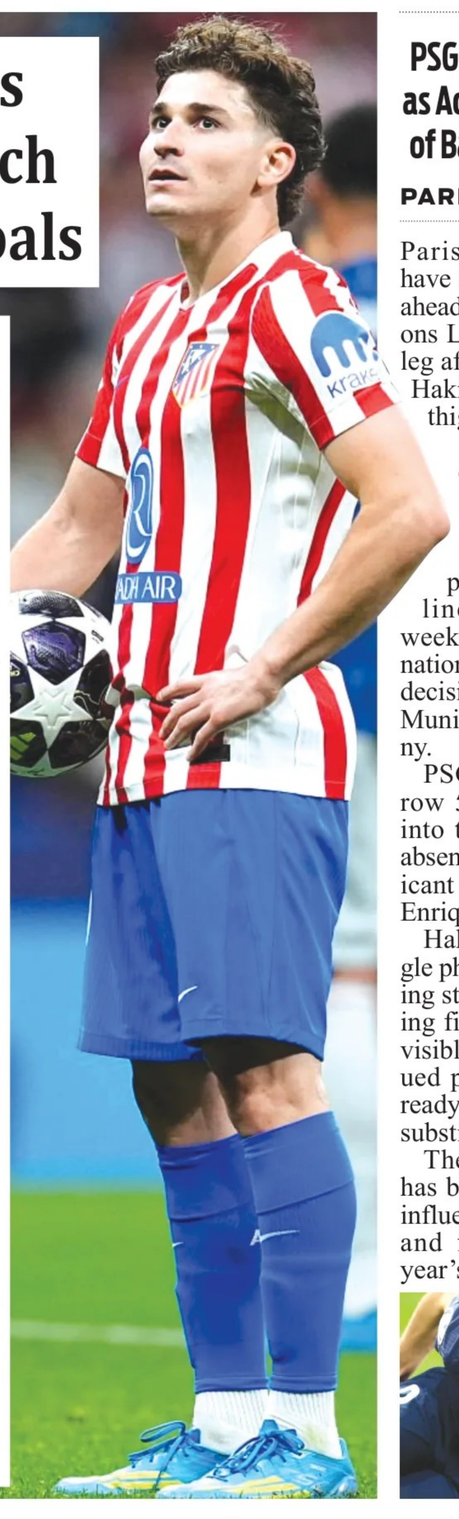
The semifinal clash at Madrid's home ground produced an intense and closely fought contest. Arsenal took the lead shortly before halftime when Viktor Gyökeres converted a penalty in the 44th minute after being fouled inside the box.

The Gunners had earlier threatened through Martin Ødegaard, Noni Madueke and Piero Hincapie, while Alvarez tested goalkeeper David Raya with a brilliant individual effort in the opening stages.

Atletico Madrid responded strongly after the break under manager Diego Simeone. Alvarez equalised from the penalty spot following a handball by Ben White, reigniting the home side's hopes.

The Spanish club continued pressing for a winner, with Antoine Griezmann striking the crossbar and Ademola Lookman forcing several saves from Raya.

The decisive second leg will now be played in London on May 6, with the winner advancing to the final against either Bayern Munich or defending champions Paris Saint-Germain F.C.



PSG suffer major setback as Achraf Hakimi ruled out of Bayern semifinal clash

PARIS

Paris Saint-Germain F.C. have suffered a major setback ahead of their UEFA Champions League semifinal second leg after star defender Achraf Hakimi was ruled out with a thigh injury.

The French champions confirmed on Wednesday that Hakimi sustained an injury to his right thigh and is expected to remain sidelined for the next few weeks. The Moroccan international will now miss PSG's decisive clash against Bayern Munich on May 6 in Germany.

PSG currently hold a narrow 5-4 advantage heading into the second leg, but the absence of Hakimi is a significant blow for manager Luis Enrique.

Hakimi appeared to struggle physically during the closing stages of Tuesday's thrilling first leg in Paris. Despite visible discomfort, he continued playing as PSG had already exhausted all available substitutions.

The 27-year-old defender has been one of PSG's most influential players this season and finished sixth in last year's Ballon d'Or rankings.

Sinner praises Rafael Jódar after Madrid Open quarterfinal victory over Spaniard

MADRID

World No. 1 Jannik Sinner showered praise on Spanish teenager Rafael Jódar after defeating the rising star in the quarterfinals of the Madrid Open.

Sinner secured a 6-2, 7-6 (7-0) victory at the Caja Magica to end Jódar's dream run in the tournament, but the Italian was quick to acknowledge the enormous potential of the 19-year-old Spaniard.

"What a player," Sinner wrote on the on-court camera lens immediately after the match.

The top-ranked Italian said Jódar initially appeared nervous but gradually settled into the contest and showcased why many consider him one of the brightest young talents in world tennis.

"In the beginning he felt a little tension, which is normal. But after that it became a really good match," Sinner said. "I maybe had a little more experience in the important moments, and that made the difference."

Jódar has enjoyed a remarkable rise over the past year. The Spaniard was ranked outside the top 600 just 12 months ago but entered the ATP top 100 in March after a string of impressive performances.

Earlier this month, he won his maiden ATP Tour title in Marrakech and later reached the semifinals in Barcelona. During the Madrid Open, Jódar also stunned higher-ranked opponents, including fifth seed Alex de Minaur.

Sinner revealed he had been closely following the Spaniard's progress and even watched some of his earlier matches courtside.

"That's one of the reasons why I went to watch him and also João Fonseca. They could be future opponents for many years," Sinner explained.

The 24-year-old added that Jódar possesses "everything needed" to become one of the sport's elite players but cautioned against placing excessive pressure on the teenager too early in his career.

"It's important not to push him too much because expectations can become difficult mentally," Sinner said. The victory marked Sinner's 21st consecutive win and secured his maiden semifinal appearance in Madrid. He will next face Arthur Fils, who extended his own winning streak to nine matches with victory over Jiří Lehečka.

QUICK READ

Federal Bank expands cards business with new deal

New Delhi

Federal Bank has approved a plan to acquire a select credit card portfolio from Standard Chartered Bank in India. The deal, cleared on April 30, will be done through a deed of assignment, though its value remains undisclosed. This move comes as Standard Chartered shifts focus from standalone cards to broader banking services. The acquisition is expected to help Federal Bank grow its retail lending business and reach more customers. Further details will be shared after the agreement is completed, as competition rises in India's credit market.

Renault India moves NCLT for major restructuring plan

New Delhi

Renault Group India has approached the National Company Law Tribunal for approval of a restructuring plan to streamline its operations. The company aims to separate powertrain manufacturing while combining vehicle production and sales under one system. This move supports its long-term strategy and plans to boost exports up to 2 billion euros by 2030. Renault said the changes will not affect employees, customers, or partners. With around 15,000 workers and over 600 outlets, the company continues to strengthen its presence in India and global markets steadily.

AI and style shape India's smartphone choices

New Delhi

A new report by Flipkart and Counterpoint Research shows that Indian smartphone buyers now value style and artificial intelligence features more than ever. Around 64 percent prefer colourful designs and are willing to pay extra for looks. At the same time, 89 percent say AI features influence their purchase decisions. Consumers also focus on better cameras, battery life, and performance. While price remains important, many buyers are choosing higher-end devices through easy payment options. The report highlights a shift toward thoughtful buying, with users keeping phones longer and expecting better overall experience.

ATF price cap at 25%: Airlines await fresh announcement

New Delhi

The government has capped the rise in Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) prices at 25 percent to protect domestic airlines from global price shocks. The decision, taken with the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, limited the increase to about Rs 15 per litre. This came after global concerns, including disruptions near the Strait of Hormuz, raised fears of a sharp spike. Airlines, including IndiGo, adjusted fares following the hike. Carriers now await the next price update, hoping for stability to manage costs and keep ticket prices affordable.

New basmati training centre for UP farmers

The govt has approved a new Basmati training centre in Pilibhit to boost organic farming and export quality via AI

PILIBHIT

The Indian government has officially approved a 70-year lease to establish the nation's first integrated Basmati and Organic Training Centre in Uttar Pradesh.

Located on a seven-acre plot in Tanda Bijaisi, Pilibhit, this landmark facility aims to revolutionize how farmers in UP and Uttarakhand cultivate India's most famous export grain.

The new center will serve as a modern hub for agricultural excellence, featuring a high-tech auditorium, a dedicated Basmati museum, and advanced laboratories. Beyond training, the site has been designated as a national research center for testing new rice varieties. This move makes Pilibhit a critical player in India's "Basmati GI zone," helping local farmers adopt both traditional and organic methods to meet growing global demand.

In a simultaneous tech-forward move, Union Minister Jitin Prasada unveiled India's

first AI-based Basmati Paddy Survey. This ambitious project will use artificial intelligence to monitor nearly four million hectares of farmland, engaging over five lakh farmers to ensure precise crop assessment and better export planning. The goal is to provide scientific advice directly to the fields, ensuring Indian rice remains a premium product worldwide.

Basmati rice continues to be a "gold mine" for Indian exports, with recent figures reaching a staggering $5.67 billion.

By combining a seven-decade commitment to land with 21st-century AI technology, the government is ensuring that local farmers stay competitive in markets across Europe, North America, and the Middle East. For the growers of Pilibhit, the future of farming is looking both organic and incredibly smart.

India's sugar output hits 275L tonne, industry faces cash crunch

NEW DELHI

India's sugar production has surged by nearly 7% this season, reaching 275.28 lakh tonnes as of April 30, according to new data from the Indian Sugar and Bio-Energy Manufacturers Association (ISMA).

While the output is up from last year's 256.49 lakh tonnes, the industry is sounding the alarm over a deepening financial crisis.

As the crushing season winds down, the production map shows a significant shift. Maharashtra and Karnataka led the charge with substantial increases in output, while Uttar Pradesh saw a slight decline. Currently, only five mills remain operational nationwide, signaling the end of the main production cycle.

Despite the higher production, sugar mills are struggling with "financial stress." ISMA has called for an immediate hike in the Minimum Selling Price (MSP) of sugar, citing a dangerous gap between rising production costs and low market prices.

This cash flow pressure has hit farmers the hardest. In

Maharashtra and Karnataka led the charge with substantial increases in output, while Uttar Pradesh saw a slight decline

Maharashtra alone, cane payment arrears, the money owed to farmers for their crops, have ballooned to ₹2,130 crore, nearly triple the amount recorded at this time last year.

"A timely upward revision in MSP is critical to restore financial viability and facilitate timely cane payments to farmers," ISMA stated, noting that this could be done without adding any fiscal burden to the government.

With global crude oil prices rising, the industry is also pushing for a more aggressive Ethanol Blending Program. While India is currently targeting 20% blending (E20), ISMA believes the country is ready for much more.

The association warned that delays in adjusting ethanol procurement prices have left many distillation units underutilized, hurting both industry revenue and India's energy security goals. For now, the "sweet" success of higher production is being overshadowed by the "bitter" reality of unpaid dues and stalled policy updates.

Face-file

- Massive capacity: India now has the capacity to produce nearly 2,000 crore litres of ethanol.
- Targeting E85/E100: The industry is calling for a roadmap toward higher blends like E25 and even E100 (pure ethanol).
- Flex-Fuel Vehicles (FFVs): To make this happen, manufacturers are urging the government to expedite the rollout of vehicles that can run on multiple fuel types and to lower GST on these "green" technologies.

Visakhapatnam is rapidly emerging as a global IT hub, attracting major tech giants and retaining local talent through infrastructure

VIZAG TRANSFORMS INTO GLOBAL TECH POWERHOUSE

VISAKHAPATNAM

The coastal city of Visakhapatnam is rapidly shedding its image as a quiet port town, emerging instead as India's newest IT growth hub. State officials announced that a unique "talent-first" ecosystem is successfully drawing global tech giants to the region, effectively reversing the long-standing trend of local professionals migrating to other cities for work.

The state's push is backed by progressive policies like the Land Incentive for Tech Hubs (LIFT), which focuses on industry-academia collaboration. The most significant validation of this strategy is the massive expansion of Infosys. The tech giant, which started with just 250 employees in early 2024, has surged to nearly 1,900 staff members. To sustain this momentum, the government has allotted 20 acres of land to the company for a permanent campus capable of housing 7,000 professionals.

IT Minister Nara Lokesh emphasized that the city's strength lies in its "industry-ready" youth. He noted that while local talent has historically powered tech firms worldwide, those same experts are now choosing to build their careers at home. Over 1,000 fresh graduates have already been recruited from the region, proving that the local education system is successfully aligning with global standards.

By combining robust infrastructure with worker-friendly urban mobility, Visakhapatnam is positioning itself as a serious competitor to established tech centers. With major investments flowing in and a maturing ecosystem, the city is no longer just a source of talent, it is becoming a premier destination for global innovation.

Heatwave boosts India's durable goods demand

NEW DELHI

India's consumer durables sector is seeing a gradual recovery as rising temperatures drive stronger demand, according to a report by Nuvama Institutional Equities. After a weak start to the year, recent heatwave conditions have boosted sales, especially in southern India, with overall volumes improving in the past 7–10 days.

However, April sales are expected to stay flat year-on-year, with stronger growth likely in the coming months depending on weather trends. Companies have already raised prices to manage higher input costs, while premium products continue to lead demand. The outlook remains cautiously positive despite margin pressures.

Jaipur airport becomes Raj's first water-positive hub

JAIPUR

Jaipur International Airport has made history by becoming the first airport in Rajasthan to achieve "water-positive" status.

Backed by the Adani Group, the facility now replenishes more water than it consumes, setting a new benchmark for environmental sustainability in India's most water-scarce state.

The certification was awarded by global experts at Bureau Veritas after a rigorous year-long assessment. Between April 2025 and March 2026, the airport used approximately 103,387 kiloliters of water but managed to recycle and replenish a staggering 137,085 kiloliters. This achievement highlights a major shift in how large-scale infrastructure projects manage precious natural resources.

To reach this milestone, the airport implemented three key strategies being, recycling 100% of its treated water, significantly reducing freshwater intake, and building a massive rainwater harvesting network. This includes 18 deep aquifer recharge pits designed to pump water back into the parched ground. Despite handling over six million passengers annually and managing 120 flights daily, the airport has proven that high-traffic hubs can operate responsibly.

A spokesperson for the airport emphasized that this success is part of a broader "digital-first" and green approach. Beyond its water success, the airport recently secured "Zero Waste to Landfill" status and holds international accreditation for carbon management. Managed by Adani Airport Holdings, the 776-acre facility is now being hailed as a model for future developments, proving that industrial growth and environmental protection can go hand in hand, even in the heart of the desert.

PhonePe hits 700 million users

NEW DELHI

Digital payments giant PhonePe has officially surpassed 700 million registered users, cementing its position as a dominant force in India's financial landscape. This massive milestone, reached on April 29, 2026, reflects the platform's incredible "population-scale" reach and its successful expansion into diverse financial services.

What is most striking about this achievement is the sheer velocity of the company's growth. In its early days, it took PhonePe 136 days to gain its first million users, the platform adds a million new users every six days. Between the 2023 and 2025 fiscal years, the company maintained a remarkable compound annual growth rate of over 56 percent. This level of consistency is rare for a company already operating at such a massive scale.

Founder and CEO Sameer Nigam described the moment as a significant "vote of trust" from Indian consumers. He noted that the accelerating pace of adoption shows how digital payments have become an essential part of everyday life. The company attributes its success to a relentless focus on making digital transactions simple, secure, and highly reliable for users, regardless of their technical expertise.

Looking ahead, PhonePe plans to leverage this massive user base to launch even more large-scale digital platforms. As India continues its rapid journey toward a fully digital economy, the company remains committed to building a seamless ecosystem that brings financial accessibility to every corner of the country.

Gadkari targets global standards for transport logistics

NEW DELHI

India's logistics expenses are set to plummet to 9 percent of the GDP, fueled by a massive overhaul of the nation's road infrastructure.

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari announced that recent improvements have already cut costs significantly, moving India closer to global standards seen in Europe and America.

Previously, India's logistics costs stood at a high 16 percent, but research from top IITs confirms a recent drop to 10 percent. Gadkari attributed this shift to the development of 36 "green express highways" currently underway. These expressways are ex-

pected to revolutionize the movement of goods, making transport faster and cheaper for businesses nationwide.

The Minister also highlighted the booming automotive sector, which recently surpassed Japan to become the world's third-largest. He noted that global giants like Mercedes are now choosing India as a manufacturing hub for electric vehicles. With the industry currently valued at ₹22 lakh crore, Gadkari remains confident that India will eventually lead the world by embracing innovation and biofuels.

Despite global trade disruptions and conflicts in West Asia, India's engineering exports reached a record-breaking $122.43 billion in the last fiscal year. Gadkari urged exporters to shift toward electric trucks for moving goods to ports, emphasizing that sustainable practices are the key to long-term economic dominance. By combining better roads with alternative fuels, the government aims to crown India as the world's top automotive and logistics powerhouse within five years.

India leads global surge for ChatGPT Images 2.0

NEW DELHI

Just a week after OpenAI launched ChatGPT Images 2.0, India has become its largest user base, driven by creative applications beyond productivity. Powered by the "gpt-image-2" model, it offers advanced reasoning and strong multilingual support, especially for Indian scripts. Users are creating everything from artistic portraits to branded content, with younger audiences leading trends like anime edits and cinematic visuals. Professionals are leveraging its editing precision for marketing and design. The tool's ability to maintain character consistency has boosted storytelling, making it a key force in India's rapidly growing creator economy and digital culture.

CARGO KING'S RECORD

Adani Ports crosses 500 MMT cargo milestone

MUMBAI

Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ) announced a powerhouse financial performance for the 2026 fiscal year, proving that even global supply chain volatility couldn't slow its momentum.

India's largest transport operator reported a 16% rise in net profit, reaching a record ₹12,782 crore, while total revenue surged by 25% to ₹38,736 crore.

The defining achievement of the year was APSEZ becoming the first Indian operator to handle over 500 million

metric tonnes (MMT) of cargo in a single year. This milestone was supported by explosive growth in non-port sectors, the logistics business grew by 55%, while the marine services segment skyrocketed by 134% following a major fleet expansion to 136 vessels.

FY26 HIGHLIGHTS

Metric	FY26 results	Year-on-Year (YoY)
Total Revenue	₹38,736 crore	↑ 25%
Net Profit	₹12,782 crore	↑ 16%
EBITDA	₹22,851 crore	↑ 20%
Cargo Volume	500+ MMT	New Record

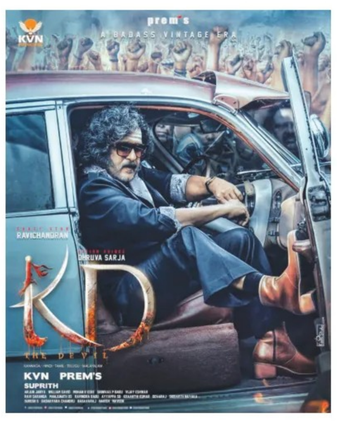
nue grew a steady 13%, the company's international operations stole the show with a 34% revenue jump. This was largely driven by the successful integration of the NQXT terminal in Australia and a significant ramp-up at their Colombo facility.

phasized that this is just the beginning of a decade-long expansion. The company has set a bold target to double its revenue and EBITDA by 2031, with a goal to reach one billion tonnes of annual cargo by December 2030.

"Our journey is far from complete," Gupta stated, noting that future growth will be funded through internal cash flows. "We are scaling up asset-light services and expanding our marine fleet while maintaining a disciplined approach to capital."

To reward shareholders for this record-breaking year, the board has proposed a dividend of ₹7.5 per share. As APSEZ continues to dominate the Indian coastline and expand its global footprint, it is firmly positioning itself as one of the world's most formidable integrated transport utilities.

New action movie struggles to find soul



The highly anticipated period drama KD: The Devil hit the theater, leaving fans with a mix of high-energy thrills and massive headaches. Starring Dhruva Sarja, the film attempts to capture the grand ambition of modern blockbusters but often trips over its own loud and messy execution.

The story follows Kali Dasa, a light-hearted young man who worships a fearsome underworld don played by Sanjay Dutt. However, loyalty turns to conflict when Kali must protect his family from his former idol. While the premise offers a classic foundation for a gritty crime saga, the film struggles under the weight of what critics call "the KGF curse", an obsession with scale over substance.

Director Prem brings his signature visual flair to the screen, offering stunning frames and impressive set designs. Unfortunately, the technical beauty is overshadowed by a disjointed screenplay and a relentlessly loud background score. Dhruva Sarja delivers a high-octane performance, though his loud mannerisms feel very familiar to his previous roles. Meanwhile, Bollywood veterans Sanjay Dutt and Shilpa Shetty add star power, but their presence cannot fully save the confusing narrative jumps.

Adding to the chaos, the film suffers from visible editing issues and a lack of continuity. Moments of genuine entertainment exist, particularly in the chemistry between the lead pair, but they are buried under layers of exaggeration. In the end, KD: The Devil proves that bigger is not always better. It remains a flashy, violent spectacle that prioritizes noise over a truly gripping story.

Popular Sandalwood actor expecting first child

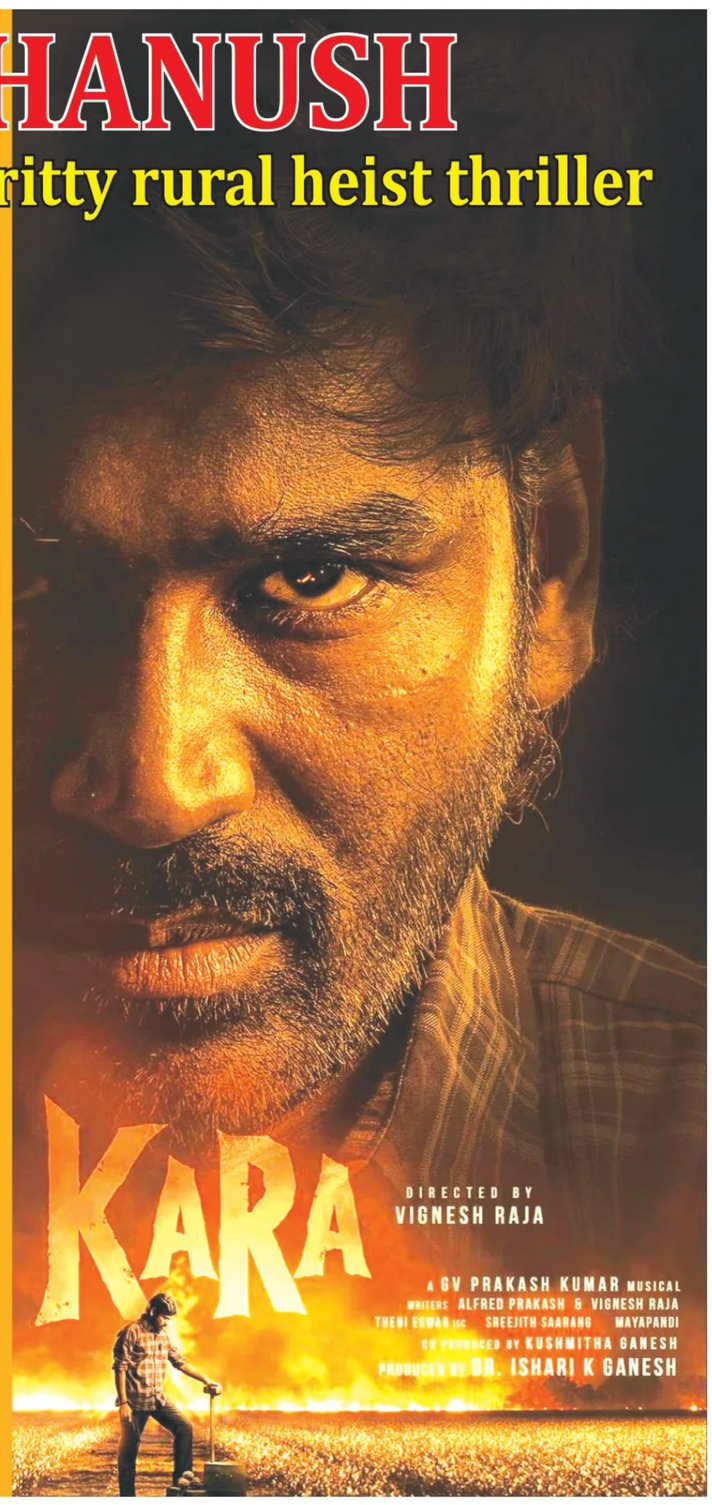
Kannada cinema's beloved "Daali" Dhananjaya and his wife, Dr. Dhanyatha, have officially announced that they are expecting their first child. The joyful news was shared by the couple via social media, sending waves of excitement throughout the film industry and their massive fan base.

The announcement came through a heartfelt Instagram post featuring a stunning photoshoot of Dr. Dhanyatha's baby bump. In a touching caption that resonated with their followers, the couple wrote, "Our universe is expanding." The photos quickly went viral, capturing a beautiful, intimate milestone for the pair who have remained a favorite topic of conversation since their high-profile wedding.

Rumors regarding the pregnancy had been circulating online for weeks after a candid photo of the couple surfaced, leading many fans to speculate about the new arrival. However, the couple chose to wait for this official reveal to confirm the news themselves. The announcement has been met with an outpouring of love, with fellow actors and political figures flooding their comments section with warm wishes and blessings for the growing family.

Dhananjaya, a powerhouse performer in Sandalwood, tied the knot with Dr. Dhanyatha on February 16, 2025, in a grand ceremony in Mysuru. Their wedding was a star-studded affair, attended by the elite of the South Indian film world. Now, just over a year later, the couple is preparing for their most important role yet, parenthood. The arrival of their "little star" is eagerly anticipated by everyone in the industry.

DHANUSH
shines in gritty rural heist thriller


KARA
DIRECTED BY
VIGNESH RAJA
A GV PRAKASH KUMAR MUSICAL
WRITERS ALFRED PRAKASH & VIGNESH RAJA
THENI EESWAR ISC SREEJITH SAARANG MAYAPANDI
CO PRODUCED BY KUSHMITHA GANESH
PRODUCED BY DR. ISHARI K GANESH

Superstar Dhanush returns to the silver screen with Kara, a period heist thriller that proves solid acting can elevate a familiar story. Directed by Vignesh Raja, the film blends rustic charm with high-stakes robbery, delivering a theatrical experience that critics describe as grounded yet gripping. The plot follows Karasaami, played by Dhanush, a struggling man who discovers his father is trapped in a predatory debt cycle fueled by heartless banks. Driven by desperation and a sense of justice, Karasaami decides to turn the tables by robbing the very institutions exploiting innocent farmers. While the "Robin Hood" theme has been explored in cinema before, Raja's focused direction keeps the narrative from feeling like a tired cliché.

The film's strength lies in its realistic heist sequences. Instead of portraying the protagonist as an invincible superhero, Kara highlights his vulnerabilities and early failures, making his eventual triumphs feel earned. Dhanush delivers a powerhouse performance, seamlessly transitioning from intense action to subtle emotional moments with his father, played convincingly by K.S. Ravikumar.

Superstars reunite for massive box office start

The historic reunion of Malayalam icons Mohanlal and Mammootty is set to ignite the box office. Their new spy thriller, Patriot, marks the first time the two legends have shared the screen in thirteen years, and industry experts predict a staggering global opening of ₹25 crore.

Advance bookings are already reaching a fever pitch. The film secured nearly ₹3 crore in domestic pre-sales, with Kerala accounting for the vast majority of tickets sold. The excitement isn't limited to India. International fans, particularly in the Gulf region, have pushed overseas advance totals past $600,000. Reports say that the film will easily cross the ₹10 crore mark before the first show even begins.

If these predictions hold true, Patriot will become the second-biggest opening in Malayalam cinema history. While Mohanlal's L2: Empuraan still holds the top record with a massive ₹68 crore start, Patriot is expected to comfortably beat other blockbusters like Marakkar and Kurup. It is also poised to shatter Mammootty's personal career record, previously held by the film Turbo.

Shah Rukh Khan's kind gesture wins internet

A heartwarming throwback video of superstar Shah Rukh Khan has resurfaced on social media, reminding fans why he is often called the "King of Hearts." The footage, which dates back to 2017, captures a touching moment of compassion between the actor and a homeless fan that has left the internet swooning once again.

The video shows the actor exiting a Mumbai venue, surrounded by his security team. As he approaches his car, a homeless man calls out to him, explaining that he had been waiting for hours just to catch a glimpse of the star and asking for help with food. Instead of walking past, Shah Rukh paused, gently placed his hand on the man's head in a blessing, and immediately turned to his longtime bodyguard, Ravi. He instructed his team to ensure the man was provided with a proper meal before they drove away.

Vicky's hilarious "Paid Partnership" request for Katrina

Bollywood's favorite power couple, Vicky Kaushal and Katrina Kaif, shared a delightful glimpse into their personal lives. In a series of playful Instagram exchanges, Vicky hilariously attempted to land an official brand deal with his wife's beauty label, Kay Beauty, only to be lovingly "roasted" by Katrina.

The banter began when Vicky posted a photo showcasing a product from his wife's brand. He cheekily captioned it, "Caffeinated cheeks for caffeinated me!" before adding that he tried his best to secure an actual sponsorship. "Sadly, not a paid promotion," he joked, implying he was working for free. Katrina didn't miss a beat, reposting the story with a witty jab at their new reality as parents. "Best for sleep-deprived dads," she wrote, referencing the couple's son, Vihaan, who was born last November.

Fans have been "swooning" over the couple's relatable dynamic. This isn't the first time Vicky has acted as Katrina's ultimate "hype man."

He has famously appeared in several of her brand's promotional videos, often using puns to praise the products. Vicky recently called Katrina a "superhero" and a "warrior" for her strength during her pregnancy and as a new mother.

Meryl Streep recruits Lady Gaga for sequel

Hollywood legend Meryl Streep has revealed that she personally secured a major superstar cameo for the highly anticipated sequel, The Devil Wears Prada 2. The 76-year-old Oscar winner shared that a simple, direct phone call to Lady Gaga was all it took to bring the "creative storm" into the high-fashion world of Miranda Priestly.

Streep made the revelation during a recent radio appearance, much to the surprise of her co-star Emily Blunt. Streep explained that she reached out to Gaga while out for dinner, asking her to join the project simply because "it's going to be really good." Despite being in the middle of a massive year-long world tour, the 40-year-old singer immediately agreed and flew in to film her scenes.

Director David Frankel confirmed that Gaga will portray a pop star performing during a pivotal sequence set in Milan. Interestingly, the collaboration felt like destiny, Streep and Gaga had recently bonded at the SNL50 celebration, making the outreach much more natural. With Disney's blessing, Streep took the lead in the negotiations, and the timing worked perfectly as the production was shooting in Italy the same week Gaga was performing there.

Meryl Streep personally brought Lady Gaga into The Devil Wears Prada 2 with a simple call, adding star power.

Beyond just acting, Gaga has also reportedly written original songs for the film. Emily Blunt praised the singer's work ethic, calling her a powerhouse addition to the cast. Currently in production, the sequel promises to bring back the original's sharp wit with a modern, musical twist that fans have awaited for decades.

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